

Mails.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., LTD.

BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP and BREMEN	"DEMPFLINGER" Capt. G. Meiners	WEDNESDAY, Noon, 13th January.
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE	"LUTZOW" Capt. C. Dewers	About THURSDAY, 14th January.
MANILA, NEWGUINEA, BRISBANE, SYDNEY and MELBOURNE	"PRINZ SIGISMUND" Capt. D. Lent	THURSDAY, 5 P.M., 28th January.
KUDAT and SANDAKAN	"BORNEO" Capt. F. Sembill	End of January.

For further Particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

MELCHERS & CO.,

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 2nd January, 1900.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL LINES.

FORTNIGHTLY SERVICE TO and FROM EUROPE via SUEZ CANAL.
TO and FROM JAPAN via SHANGHAI.

FOR	STEAMERS	CAPTAINS	TO SAIL ON
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SYDNEY		Rebutat	4th Jan./09, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS		ERNEST SIMONS	Girard, 5th Jan. at 1 P.M.
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA		POLYNESIEN	Broc, 18th Jan. P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS		TOMKIN	Charbonnel, 19th Jan. at 1 P.M.

Transhipment on the Co's Steamers at Singapore for Batavia; at Colombo for Calcutta, Bombay and Australia; at Port Said for the Levant, Constantinople and Black Sea.

Through Tickets to London via Paris from £27.10 up to £71.10. 20 hours' railway from Marseilles to London.

Transshipment on the Co's Steamers at Singapore for Batavia; at Colombo for Calcutta, Bombay and Australia; at Port Said for the Levant, Constantinople and Black Sea.

Through Tickets to London via Paris from £27.10 up to £31.10. 20 hours' railway from Marseilles to London.

Interpreters meet passengers at their arrival in Marseilles.

For further particulars, apply to

P. NALIN,

ACTING AGENT,

QUEEN'S BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 24th December, 1900.

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

REGULAR THREE-WEEKLY SERVICE
BETWEEN
JAVA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.

Steamer	From	Expected on or about	Will leave for	On or about
TJIPANAS	SHANGHAI	2nd half Dec.	JAVA	2nd half Dec.
TJIMAH	JAVA	1st half Jan.	SHANGHAI	1st half Jan.
TJILIWONG	JAPAN	1st half Jan.	JAVA	1st half Jan.
TJIKINI	JAVA	2nd half Jan.	JAPAN	2nd half Jan.
TJILATJAP	JAVA	1st half Feb.	SHANGHAI	1st half Feb.
TJIBODAS	JAVA		JAPAN	

The Steamers are all fitted throughout with Electric Light and have Accommodation for a limited number of Saloon Passengers, and will take Cargo to all Netherland, India Ports on through Bills of Lading.

For Particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

Telephone No. 375.

YORK BUILDINGS, 1st floor.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1900.

WEST RIVER BRITISH STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

HONGKONG-WUCHOW LINE.

THE Steamers "LINTAN" and "SAN-UI" sail from HONGKONG TWICE A WEEK AND COMPLETE THE ROUND TRIP IN 4 DAYS. These steamers have Excellent Saloon Accommodation, and are Lighted Throughout by Electricity.

THE CLIMATE ON THE WEST RIVER DURING THE WINTER MONTHS IS VERY FINE AND EXHILATING.

For further information apply to—

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

WEST RIVER BRITISH STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

Intimation.

No. 1 DOCK.

Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 95 ft.; bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.

No. 2 DOCK.

Length inside, 375 ft. Width of entrance, top 60.5 ft. bottom 45.3 ft. Water on blocks, 38.5 ft. Time to pump out, 2 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand, (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyd's surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Tugs are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 25 tons.

Steam Launches of Steel or Wood, Lighters, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work, and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranteed.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos. 376, 506, or 681.

Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codes A. B. O. 4th and 5th Edt.

Liebers, Scotts,

A. I. and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1905.

Shipping—Steamers.

MESSAGERIES CANTONNAISES.

FRENCH LINE OF STEAMERS BETWEEN HONGKONG, CANTON AND KOVANG-SI.

S.S. "PAUL BEAU," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.

R.S. "CHARLES HARDOUIN," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.

The speediest, most luxuriously appointed and punctual steamers on the line. Departure from Hongkong at 10 P.M. (Saturdays excepted). Departure from Canton at 5.15 P.M. (Sundays excepted).

These superb steamers carrying the French Mail are fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fans and were specially built for this trade. Excellent cuisine.

The Company's Own Wharf near Wing Lok Street and its berth in Canton opposite Shamen.

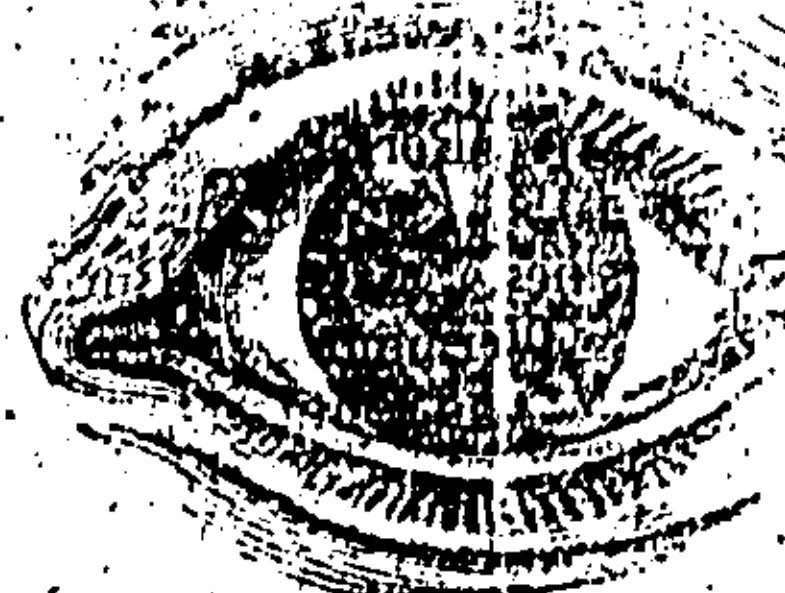
For further particulars, please apply to the COMPANY'S OFFICE at Shamen, Canton, or to their Agents

BARRETTO & CO., Hongkong.

Hongkong, 9th October, 1900.

Intimations.

EYES



RIGHT!

N. LAZARUS, OPHTHALMIC OPTICIAN,
CORNER OF D'AGUILAR STREET AND QUEEN'S ROAD.

WILL test your eyes free of charge, and if they are wrong will put them right.

Lenses Ground. All kinds of Repairs. Spectacles for all requirements.

Ask, or write, for illustrated Booklet on "Defective Sight"—free.

LONDON, CALCUTTA, SHANGHAI, 50, Bedford Row, W.C. 2, 50, Bechook Street, 506, Nanking Road.

Unopposed 2th March 1901.

THERAPION MAY NOW ALSO BE OBTAINED

IN DRAGON (TASTELESS) FORM.

CURE NO FICTION!

MARVEL UPON MARVEL!

NO SUFFERER

NOW DESPAIR,

but by using a doctor's skill or falling into the hands of a quack, may safely, speedily and surely cure himself without the knowledge of any party. By the introduction of a NEW FRENCH REMEDY.

THERAPION No. 3—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

THERAPION No. 2—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

THERAPION No. 1—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

THERAPION No. 0—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

THERAPION No. -1—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

THERAPION No. -2—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

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THERAPION No. -4—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

THERAPION No. -5—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

THERAPION No. -6—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

THERAPION No. -7—A Sovereign

Remedy for all kinds of diseases, especially those of the blood, and all other ailments.

GUNS

DIRECT from the manufacturers at lowest prices. 12 bore Double Breechloaders from 30s. each. Illustrated catalogue of light model. Shot Gun, Combination Gun, Sporting Rifle, &c., post free. D. JAMES & REYNOLDS, George Street, Minorities, London, E.C. England.

AN APPEAL.

THE SUPERIORITY of the ITALIAN CONVENT GUN, ROAD, BEGINS with the APPEAL to the Residents of Hongkong and the Coast Ports, for their kind patronage and support, and desires to state that she will be pleased to receive orders for all kinds of NEEDLE WORK.

Gentlemen's Shirts made to order, and Collars and Cuffs reserved on old ones.

Ladies and Children's Under-clothing, Children's Dresses, and all kinds of Embroidery, Materials can be supplied, if required.

The Superiors will also be most grateful for any PAPER, or old Manuscripts to be made into Books for the Children of the Poor, who are taught by the Sisters.

Sole by all Chemists.

(12-0) Hongkong, 2nd Jan. 1900.

Sole by all Chemists.

Sole by all Chemists.

STRAITS FISHES.

One of the delights of living down at Klong, before it became a town, was to go out in the early morning and see the fishermen draw their nets. The curious nature of many of the fish caught, the almost impossibility of getting the Chinese fishermen to give any information, and the fact that all the catch was already sold to the fish ring (the owners of the boats and the employers of the men) added zest to the inquiries. The fish market, if one can get up early enough, is a place of great interest, although the average man, concerned only from a non-scientific point of view, is again left, in endeavouring to recognise the varieties, vivid in colouring and quaint in shape that are there to be seen.

Fortunately the curious in this matter will, as time goes on, have a better opportunity of making acquaintance with "the funny denizens"—sounding but incorrect phrase—in the Raffles Museum. In the fish-room two cities are being devoted to mounted fish, and those already there are worth examination. See the fish in the water at Raffles Light, vividly coloured and in swarms shooting over the coral bottom near the Pier, best at low-water, and it is very different to seeing the fish brought to land even on the sand, and even more so than a few hours later, when they are merely damp unpleasant corpses. Dr. Hanich, the Director of the Museum, is working on a different tack, now. The actual fish are taken, skinned and preserved, and then carefully coloured so that the fleshy tints and gorgeous markings may be preserved, as nearly as possible to the original, as skilful work will permit. The silvery gleam is difficult to get, but one of the Museum assistants has a pretty taste that way—the coloured models of fruit cast from "life" and tinted to original are his work. The fish, thus mounted and coloured, make quite a good show already. There are porcupine fish, the globes, which blow themselves up, the coffee or trunk fishes, so-called from their curious four-sidedness, parrot fishes of the most beautiful colours and a beak that looks as if it could crack many a dead nut, the sucking fish, with a curious upside-down look, and a mouth at the top, our old friend the ikao morab, also an ikan hijau, a species with a sharp thorn stuck at the bottom of the gill, another most brilliantly coloured with a dorsal fin that flies away like a crest feather, and a score of others. Many of these fish have come from Mr. H. C. Clarke, the Municipal Inspector of Markets, who is always on the look-out, and has presented many striking specimens. His colleague Mr. de Mello, has also presented some, while Dr. Lim Boon-Keng always seems to keep his eye on specimens of interest to the Museum. Dr. T. I. Rowell, C.M.G., Principal Officer, made a collection of fish in 1883-7 and some of these although long ago faded out of their natural colours, can be utilised for the now collection. It must have been about this time that the Rev. J. E. Tanison-Woods, vice-president of the Linnean Society, New South Wales, paid a visit to the Straits, and the result of his visit was No. 1 of Malaysian Essays, "The Fisheries of the Oriental Region," printed at Sydney, our copy being marked "presented by the Government of the Straits Settlements for review." Fancy a Government sanctioning the word "Malaysian." Mr. Woods' pamphlet, however, has a good deal of interesting matter in it, although a trifle too diffuse from a scientific point of view. He also goes a little astray in his Malay, but has much to say about "belachan," and in a note at the end identifies this concoction of pounded shrimps with the intense smell, as the sauce, or pickle frequently mentioned in Pliny as garos, from which he deduces that the Malay word garum, from the Sanscrit "sara," is the same word used by the ancient Greek and Roman writers. It would be a striking testimony to blachan if it could be proved that this toothsome delicacy was world-known in the fifth century. Mr. Tanison-Woods gives some account of the fish industries of the East are Chinese, that one-tenth of the population of China derives its support from fishing; that the fishes of the Indian Archipelago belong to the equatorial region, differing but slightly from the Atlantic equatorial fishes. Of Malaysian fisheries he says:

The coasts of the Straits of Malacca, whether on the Sumatran or Malayan sides, are extremely low and shallow. Large mangrove swamps with innumerable shallow streams fringe the shores. Vessels of even moderate draught must anchor a long way out. Sometimes, where the coast is scarcely visible, one meets a succession of bamboo fences, which are fishing stakes or fish traps of clumsy construction. They are closely woven labyrinths in which the fishes get entangled when the tide is in, and remain until the men come to make them captive. The fishing boats of frail construction, vary from one to three tons burden. They are pulled by oars, and seldom carry sails, so that they do not venture far from shore. The nets are made of twine-tanned with mangrove bark. The meshes are not constructed as in Europe, being knotted in a different way, with a fastening that slips and often allows fish to escape. The fishing stakes require very little trouble, and contribute largely to the take. They answer well enough in fine weather, and there is seldom anything else in the Straits of Malacca. The traps are neither ingenious nor durable, but the sea is rich in fish, and they are well sheltered. They form a conspicuous feature all through the Archipelago where the coast is shallow.

There are eighty genera of shore-fish in the Indo-Pacific region only—their scientific names can be read by those who like. The herrings are regular denizens of this region; horse mackerel are favourite articles of food; thirteen species of caranx were to be seen in the markets of Penang; the tunnies, ikan tenggiri papan, are favourite articles of food, and he does not remember ever seeing a fish market in which tunnies were not the principal fishes (sharks for sale). But it is not easy to pick out from the fish-market, specimens palatable to the ordinary taste. The new Guide to the Zoological Collections of the Museum has a short chapter on fishes, but a visit to the new collection, which is properly labelled with the scientific Malay and English names wherever possible, will prove interesting, even from the point of view of the fisherman, and the fisherman, who are taught by the Sisters.

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WEATHER-FORCAST AND STORM-WARNINGS ISSUED FROM THE HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

METEOROLOGICAL SIGNALS.

Meteorological signals are hoisted on the mast in front of the Water Police Station at Tsim Sha Tsui for the information of masters of vessels leaving the port. They do not necessarily imply that bad weather is expected here.

- Signal No. 1. A CONE point upwards indicates a Typhoon to the North of the Colony.
- Signal No. 2. A CONE point upwards and a V.M. below indicates a Typhoon to the North-East of the Colony.
- Signal No. 3. A DRUM indicates a Typhoon to the East of the Colony.
- Signal No. 4. A CONE point downwards and a DRUM below indicates a Typhoon to the South-East of the Colony.
- Signal No. 5. A CONE point downwards indicates a Typhoon to the South of the Colony.
- Signal No. 6. A CONE point downwards and a BALL below indicates a Typhoon to the South-West of the Colony.
- Signal No. 7. A BALL indicates a Typhoon to the West of the Colony.
- Signal No. 8. A CONE point upwards and a BALL below indicates a Typhoon to the North-West of the Colony.

Red Signals indicate that the centre is believed to be more than 300 miles away from the Colony.

Black Signal indicate that the centre is believed to be less than 300 miles away from the Colony.

The above signals will, as heretofore, be hoisted only when typhoons exist in such positions or are moving in such directions that information regarding them is considered to be of importance to the Colony or to shipping leaving the harbour.

These signals are repeated at the Harbour Office, H.M.S. Tamar, Green Island Signal Mast, and the Flagstaff on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon.

URGENT SIGNAL.

In addition to the above, when it is expected that the wind may increase to full typhoon force at any moment, the following Urgent Signal will be made at the Water Police Station, and repeated at the Harbour Office:

THREE EXPLOSIVE BOMBS, AT INTERVALS OF TEN SECONDS.

A Black Cross will be hoisted at the same time, superior to the other shapes.

NIGHT SIGNALS.

The following Night Signals will be exhibited from the Flagstaff on the roof of the Water Police Station at Kowloon, the Harbour Office Flagstaff, and H.M.S. Tamar.

I. Three Lights Vertical, Green Green Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated more than 300 miles from the Colony.

II. Three Lights Vertical, Green Red Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated less than 300 miles from the Colony.

III. Three Lights Vertical, Red Green Red, indicates that the wind may be expected to increase to full typhoon force at any moment.

No. III. Signal will be accompanied by the Explosive Bombs, as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being confirmed by night.

These Night Signals will be substituted for the Day Signals at sunset, and will, when necessary, be altered during the night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNINGS.

For the benefit of Native Craft and passing Ocean Vessels, a Cone will be exhibited at each of the following stations during the time that any of the above Day Signals are hoisted in the Harbour.

Gap Rock, Wagon, Stanley, Cape Collinson.

This will indicate that there is a depression somewhere in the China Sea, and that a Storm Warning is hoisted in the Harbour.

Further details can always be given to Ocean Vessels, on demand, by signal from the Observatory.

G. F. Frost, Meteorological Officer.

Intimations.

Powell's
ALEXANDRA
BUILDINGS.

ARE
NOW SHOWING
the latest production
in British
CARPETS
in the
most exclusive
designs & colourings.

Jute Art Squares
for Bedrooms,
from \$9.50.

Kensington Art
Squares,
in 3 sizes,
from \$18.75.

Kidderminster
Squares,
all wool,
Special Thick
Quality,

3 by 4 yds.....\$37.50
3½ by 4½ yds.....\$50.00
4 by 5 yds.....\$65.00

A Large Variety of
Velvet Pile
Squares,
from 9ft. by 6ft.
to 15ft. by 18ft.,
from \$35 to \$200.

Seamless Axminster
Squares,
in Artistic Designs,
3 by 3 yds. 3 by 3½ yds.
3 by 4 yds. 3½ by 4½ yds.
4 by 5 yds. 5 by 6 yds.
from \$50 to \$275.

Hearthrugs
to match.

POWELL'S
Carpet Department,
First Floor,
ALEXANDRA
BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 26th December, 1899

Intimations.

THE BRIGHT SIDE

of life. It is a feeling common to the majority of us that we do not get quite the amount of happiness we are entitled to. Among the countless things which tend to make us more or less miserable ill-health takes first place. Hannah More said that sin was generally to be attributed to biliousness. No doubt a crippled liver with the resulting impure blood, is the cause of more mental gloom than any other single thing. And who can reckon up the fearful aggregate of pain, loss and fear arising from the many ailments and diseases which are familiar to mankind; like a vast cloud it hangs over a multitude no one can number. You can see these people everywhere. For them life can scarcely be said to have any "bright side" at all. Hence the eagerness with which they search for relief and cure. Remedies like

WAMPOLE'S PREPARATION

have not attained their high position in the confidence of the people by bald assertions and boasting advertisements. They are obliged to win it by doing actually what is claimed for them. That this remedy deserves its reputation is conceded. It is palatable as honey and contains the nutritive and curative properties of Pure Cod Liver Oil, combined with the Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites and the Extracts of Malt and Wild Cherry. Nothing has such a record of success in Scrofula, Anemia, Throat and Lung Troubles, and emaciating complaints and disorders, that tend to undermine the foundations of strength and vigour. Its use helps to show life's brighter side. Dr. H. L. Reddy, B. A., M. D., L. R. C. S., Edinburgh, L. R. C. P., London, Physician Woman's Hospital—Professor University of Bishops College, Canada, says: "I have much pleasure in stating that I have used it in cases of debility, and have found it to be a very valuable remedy as well as pleasing to take." You can take it with the assurance of getting well. It never disappoints. Sold by all chemists.

[49]

INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR
and
EXPRESS TRAINS Co.
(THE
GREAT TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE
TO EUROPE.)

HAVING been appointed AGENTS for
the above Company, we shall be
pleased to give any information as to rates of
passage, &c., in connection with above.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.
Agents.
Hongkong, 21st July 1900.

O. C. MOOSA,
1 & 3, D'AGUILAR STREET.

NOVELTIES OF THE SEASON.

Trimmed and Untrimmed
HATS, RIBBONS, FLOWERS;
FEATHERS, &c., &c.

LACE SCARFS, MOTOR VELS
IN
VARIOUS COLORS.

MOUSQUETEIRE GLOVES
IN
WHITE, BLACK & COLORS.

WOOLEN DELAINES, NUNSVEL
INGS, VOILES, &c., &c.

LADIES' and CHILDREN'S
UNDERCLOTHINGS.

Samples on application. Cons
Port orders carefully executed.
See list, 20th September 1900.

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE.

LI KWONG LOONG & CO.,
司公隆李

CABINET-MAKERS and ART DECORATORS,
from Shanghai, has re-opened their
FURNITURE STORE.

No. 30, DES VUEX ROAD CENTRAL.
The only shop in Hongkong with this name.

WHERE HIGH-CLASS FURNITURE
of every description can be made to
order in any design required.

Have been patronized by the Hongkong
Club, Hongkong Hotel, Telegraph Co.,
Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., and other
leading Establishments in the Colony,
whose reference can be made to the
Superior Workmanship and Materials of the
Furniture, &c., supplied.

Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., write as
follows:

"We have pleasure in stating that Mr. LI
KWONG LOONG furnished the Annex to
our Dispensary and gave us every satisfaction."

(Sd.) A. S. WATSON & Co.

ORDERS punctually attended to, and
CHARGES most moderate.

AN INSPECTION INVITED.
Hongkong, 9th August, 1900

VIOLATION OF TRADE-MARK.

LEVER'S "CAPITOL" TOILET SOAP.

DECISION OF THE TONY CHING SAIBANSHO.

On examination of the charge of violation of
the Trade-mark Law against Miki Yataro, a
soap manufacturer, No. 7, Matsukura-cho, I-
chome, Nishi, Tokyo, and Sekiguchi Shiroki-
chi, a soap-dealer, No. 1, 524, Kameido-cho,
Minami-Katsushika district, Tokyo-fu, now
residing at No. 14, Kami Haiyemou-cho,
Asakusa, Tokyo, the Court, in conjunction with
Prosecutor Miura Eigorō, has decided as
follows:

The defendant Miki Yataro is ordered to pay
a fine of Yucco and the defendant Sekiguchi is
acquitted as innocent.

REASONS FOR JUDGMENT.

Lever Brothers, Limited, of Port Sunlight,
county of Chester, England, registered, with the
object of reserving exclusive use in Japan for
themselves, at the Japanese Patent Bureau,
before April 1906, a trade-mark composed of an
oblong rectangle in which is printed in English
the word "Capitol" for the purpose of denoting
soaps designed "Capitol soaps," which are
manufactured by the company. On the soap
themselves the same trade-mark and the words
"Lever Brothers, Limited, Port Sunlight" in
English, are impressed, while on the wrappers
of the soaps and also on the labels pasted on
the oblong boxes in which the soaps are packed
appear the same words in the same style as the
impression on the soap. In this way the com-
pany has been practically using the trademark.

Knowing this fact the defendant Miki Yataro,
without obtaining the permission of Lever
Brothers, manufactured what he called "Capitol
Soap" between April 1906, and January
1908, at the address mentioned, using on the
soap the registered trade-mark belonging to
the English firm. The impression was made
by means of a brass mould (which was seized)
the cakes of soap were packed in
"wrappers and boxes identical in appearance
with those used by the English firm. Defendant
packed and dressed his soap in the same
way as genuine Capitol soap is packed, and
within the period named sold 5,441 boxes of
the soap to Tanaka Eitaro, No. 22 Shin-Mat-
suyamacho, Asakusa, Tokyo, also to a man
whose name and address are unknown, and
also to the defendant Sekiguchi Shirokichi. He
furthermore sold to the defendant Sekiguchi
during the period from April 1906 to October
1906, 100 dozens of the cakes of soap unpacked.
In this way the defendant Miki, with the inten-
tion of pursuing this course uninterrupted, for
the period named, infringed the registered
trade-mark belonging to the English firm.

The facts cited above are borne out—
(1) By the deposition before this Court of
the defendant Miki, which is congruous
with the facts of the case quoted in the
judgment, with the exception of the fact
that he had full knowledge that the trade-mark
used on the soap manufactured by him and the
boxes and wrappers in which the soap was
packed had been registered with the Japanese
authorities by Lever Brothers, Limited, Eng-
land, before April 1906, for the purpose of re-
serving exclusive use of their product termed
"Capitol" soap.

(2) By the statements of witness Ota Masu-
goro in the preliminary examination of this
case, as appearing in the minutes of the pre-
liminary examination, that he received, between
the 10th March or April 1906 and January 1907,
orders from a man named Shimomura, lodging
at the house of the defendant Miki and his
wife, for 4,280 soap-packing boxes, and sub-
sequently received the purchase-money for
them from the said Shimomura and the wife of
the defendant, and also that the boxes (seized)
had been manufactured at his house.

(3) By the statements of witness Kitamura
Kikujiro in the preliminary examination to the
effect that in the middle of March 1906, a man
named Kitamura, residing in the house of the
defendant Miki, came to the house of witness
and, producing an imported soap requested
him to make brass moulds identical with the
design, impressed on the soap in all details,
with the exception of the lion and horse em-
bracing, which portion of the design was to be
altered to a flower basket. The witness man-
ufactured the moulds as ordered in the latter
part of March 1906, and delivered them to
Shimomura; the moulds (seized), fifteen in
number, had been manufactured by him (witness)
and delivered.

(4) By the statement of witness Kitano
Choku in the preliminary examination, to the
effect that towards the end of Feb-
ruary 1906 one Shimomura, living with
the defendant Miki, came to his house
with samples of imported soap-boxes and wrap-
pers and ordered him to print 4,000 labels on
boxes and 12,000 wrappers with a design iden-
tical with that on the samples in all details with
the exception of the animals, which were to be
changed into a flower basket. The order was
executed. Subsequently, in the middle of
September 1907, he received a further order for
a similar number of labels and wrappers, and
the bills were paid by Shimomura and the de-
fendant Miki. Witness added that the printed
matter (seized) had been printed by him.

(5) By the statement of Shimomura Keino-
suke in the preliminary examination to the
effect that he was in the employ of the defend-
ant Miki from October 14th, 1905, to the
present (March 26th, 1907) at a monthly
remuneration of Yucco, on the understanding that
he should receive 10 per cent of the net profit
on the soap business at the expiration of every
six months (July and December).

(6) By the statement of witness Tanaka
Eisaburo in the preliminary examination to the
effect that between April 1906, and January
1908, he had purchased from the defend-
ant Miki 2,212 boxes of soap called "Flower-
basket Capitol Soap" at 56 sen (?) per box;
and that the fourteen boxes of soap (seized)
were identical with those he had purchased
from the defendant Miki.

(7) By the statement of the defendant
Sekiguchi in this Court that he had purchased
soap from the defendant Miki during the period
and at the place quoted in the judgment.

(8) By the statement in the declaration made
by the complainant firm against the defendant
Miki to the effect that the defendant, without
obtaining the approval of the complainant, was
selling soap under the cover of the trade-mark
the right to use which exclusively in Japan
belonged to the complainant company.

(9) By the statement of witness Iwata Ky-
goro in the preliminary examination to the
effect that he was an employee of Iida Sadasuke,
a soap dealer, of Osaka. In March or April
1906 he visited the house of the defendant Miki
for the purpose of purchasing soap, when he
was shown some soaps with the trade-mark
held by Lever Brothers, Limited. He then
pointed out to the defendant that the trade-
mark on the "Capitol soap" had been regis-
tered by the English firm, so that it could not
be used by anyone else without obtaining the
firm's consent. He further cautioned the de-
fendant to refrain from using the trade-mark
in question. On hearing this, the defendant
affirmed that he did not know the fact. He
was manufacturing the soaps without any mali-
cious intention.

(10) By the statement of the defendant Seki-
guchi in the preliminary examination, to the
effect that after the criminal action had been
instituted by Lever Brothers, Limited (since
January 18th, 1908) he told the defendant Miki
that he (Sekiguchi) had learned that the trade-
mark on the "Capitol soap" had already been
registered by Lever Brothers, Limited.

(11) By the statement of witness Takema
Shinzo in the preliminary examination that he
had been requested by the two defendants to
negotiate on their behalf a peaceful settlement
of the trouble. He accordingly wrote to Iida
Sadasuke, of Osaka, and asked him to settle
this case amicably out of Court, to which he
received the reply from Iida that his employe
Iwata had recently visited Tokyo and informed
the defendant Miki that the trade-mark in
question was already registered by Lever Bro-
thers, Limited. Despite this the defendant
Miki continued to manufacture the imitation.
It was therefore impossible for him (Iida) to
comply with the request. At the beginning of
February 1906 witness summoned the two de-
fendants to his house and told them that they
had already been warned against their action.
The defendant Sekiguchi asked Miki whether
he had been warned, and the latter denied hav-
ing received such warning, though he thought
that Iwata had come from Osaka and made
mention of the matter.

(12) By the statement contained in the Trade-
mark Gazette, No. 462, to the effect that the
trade-mark used by Lever Brothers, Limited,
for their soaps, which was cited in the judg-
ment, was registered at the Patent Bureau on
September 21st, 1905.

(13) By the "Capitol" soaps and the trade-
mark on their wrappers and boxes, which were
used by the defendant Miki.

In considering the law on this point, the
Court finds that the action of the defendant
Miki renders him liable under Clause 1 of Ar-
ticle 16 of the Trade-mark Law, No. 38 of 1899,
and he is sentenced to pay a fine of Yucco as
mentioned.

The facts in the charge against the defendant
Sekiguchi Shirokichi are that between Novem-
ber 1906 and January 1907, knowing that the
trade-mark used on the soaps called "Capitol"
manufactured by Lever Brothers, Limited, was
registered with the Japanese Government, he
manufactured, in conjunction with the defend-
ant Miki, a quantity of soap, impressed it with
the same appellation and trade-mark, packed
it in 2,472 boxes together with 100 dozens of
the soap bought from the defendant Miki, the wrap-
pers and boxes being identical in design with
those used by Lever Brothers, Limited, and
further sold over 4,400 boxes to several persons
between about April 1906 and January 1907.
All these facts, with the exception that he had
knowledge of the registration by Lever Bro-
thers, Limited, of the trade-mark, have been
substantiated by statements made by him in
this Court. But the evidence is insufficient to
prove beyond doubt that the defendant had
knowledge that the trade-mark in question was
registered by Lever Brothers, Limited. The
Court, therefore, has decided that the defend-
ant Sekiguchi Shirokichi shall be acquitted in
accordance with Articles 236 and 234 of the
Code of Criminal Procedure.

Of the articles seized, those under the cate-
gory of the first group, as belonging to defend-
ants, are confiscated in accordance with the
first part of Article 18 of the Trade-mark Law,
and those under the category of the second
group, also belonging to defendants, must be
destroyed in accordance with the second part
of the same Article of the Trade-mark Law, as
they are inseparable from the trade-mark, while
those under the category of the third group, not
being liable to confiscation, shall be returned
to their respective owners.

The judgment is signed by Judge Shimada
Tetsukichi, presiding Judge, Mituda Kwanichi
and Judge Miyagi Hyogoro.

OPIUM IN SIAM.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* gives the figures
of the import of opium into Siam for some years
back, and adds a sympathetic note on the
efforts made to control the import of morphia.
It says—Opium is, in effect, a Government
monopoly, and the Government holds that the
derivatives of opium are subject to the same
rules as opium itself, especially as regards their
importation by foreigners under the treaties.
On this point certain difficulties have arisen
with foreigners who took up the importation of
morphia. The amount of this drug being
brought into the country was increasing, and
undoubtedly largely exceeded the requirements
for medical purposes. The Government then
authorised the importation by certain dis-
pensaries of good reputation and under certain
conditions, viz., the fixing of a maximum
amount and inspection of the books of sale.
Morphia pays a duty of 3 per cent in Siam.

A little opium is grown in the north of Siam,
and consumed by the cultivators. It is illegal
to grow opium, but the thing is done on so
small a scale and in so distant and thinly
populated a part of the country that the Gov-
ernment has never interfered.

Intimations.

SAINT-RAPHAEL

TONIC, RESTORATIVE, DIGESTIVE WINE
Very palatable.

Known throughout the world and prescribed in all cases of
Anemia, Debility and Concomitance, to young women, children
and the aged. Invaluable in hot climates.

DOSE: One wine-glass after the two principal meals.

Each bottle of genuine VIN SAINT-RAPHAEL bears, in addition
to the registered trade-mark:

(1) THE WARRANTY STAMP OF THE UNION DES FABRICANTS.

(2) A METAL SEAL advertising CLETEAS.

CLETEAS is a MELISSA and MINT cordial
which surpasses all others by its
purity and faultless preparation. To be taken on a lump of sugar.
COMPAGNIE du VIN SAINT-RAPHAEL, Valence (Drôme-France).
JALDBROK MACREBOG & Co., Hongkong.

Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer

"ASSAYE,"
FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND
STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named
vessel are hereby informed that their Goods
are being landed and placed at their risk in the
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each
consignment will be sorted out Mark by Mark,
and delivery can be obtained as soon as the
Goods are landed.

This vessel brings on Cargo:—

From London, &c., ex S.S. *Victoria*,
From Australia, ex S.S. *Moldavia*,
From Persian Gulf, ex B.I.S.N. and B. &
P. S. N. Co.'s Steamers.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless
instructions are given to the contrary before
6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 31st instant, at
4 P.M., will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in
any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the
Godowns for examination by the Consignee's
and the Company's representative at an ap-
pointed hour.

All Claims must be presented within ten
days of the steamer's arrival here after which
date they cannot be recognised.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 24th December, 1900.

"BEN" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

S.S. "BENVORLICH,"
FROM MIDDLESBROUGH, ANTWERP,
LONDON AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby
informed that all Goods are being landed
at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong
and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.,
whence and/or from the wharves, delivery
may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remain-
ing undelivered after the 1st prox. will be
subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be pre-
sented to the Underwriter on or before the
30th January, or they will not be recognised.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on the 31st inst., at 11 A.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 28th December, 1900. [1113]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"PRINZ EITEL FRIEDRICH,"

having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby
informed that their Goods, with the exception
of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being
landed and stored at their risk into the Godowns
and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hong-
kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Com-
pany, Limited, at Kowloon, and West Point
Godowns, whence delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remain-
ing undelivered after the 6th of January, 1900,
will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on the 6th of January, at 10 A.M.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the
Underwriter.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

MELCHERS & Co.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 30th December, 1900. [1114]

Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer

"SUNDA,"
FROM ANTWERP, LONDON, MALTA,
PORT SAID, SUEZ AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named
vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are
being landed and placed at their risk in the
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each
consignment will be sorted out Mark by Mark,
and delivery can be obtained as soon as the
Goods are landed.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless
instructions are given to the contrary before
6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 28th inst., at
4 P.M., will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in
any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the
Godowns for examination by the Consignee's
and the Company's representative at an ap-
pointed hour.

All claims must be presented within ten days
of the steamer's arrival here after which date
they cannot be recognised.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 21st December, 1900.

"BARBER" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "SURUGA,"
FROM NEW YORK AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed
that all Goods are being landed at their
risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and
Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, at
Kowloon, whence and/or from the wharves
delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remain-
ing undelivered after the 6th January will be
subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be pre-
sented to the Underwriter on or before the
30th January, or they will not be recognised.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on the 6th January, at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,
Agents.
Hongkong, 31st December, 1900. [1122]

For Sale.

FABBT BREWING COMPANY,
MILWAUKEE.

FRESH SUPPLIES

ALWAYS KEPT IN STOCK

BY
SIEMSEN & Co.,
Agents for

HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA.

Hongkong, 20th July, 1900. [111]

THERAPION MAY NOW ALSO BE OBTAINED

IN DRACLET (TASTILLES) FORM.

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY

TRADE THERAPION MARK.

This successful and highly popular remedy, used in
the Continental Hospitals by Kappeler, Kappeler, Kappeler,
Vilpeau and others, combines all the desiderata to be
sought in a medicine of the kind, and surpasses every
other remedy.

THERAPION No. 1 is a re-
markably short time, often in five days only, removes all dis-
charges, effectually suppurating lesions, the use of
which does irreparable harm by living the foundation of
stricture and other serious diseases. Indispensable, also,
in the treatment of the lower bowel, cough, bronchitis, asthma,
and most of the more trying complaints of this kind. It
will be found astonishingly efficacious, affording prompt
relief where other well-known remedies have failed.

THERAPION No. 2 is a
blood-purifying, skin-purifying, and general tonic, and is
indispensable in all skin diseases, such as eruptions, eczema,
and all diseases for which it has been too much a fashion
to employ mercury, arsenic, and other powerful and dan-
gerous remedies. It is a powerful and safe purifier of
the blood, and restores the system to its normal state.

Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

FANCY TOILET
ARTICLES

VERY SUITABLE FOR PRESENTS.

HANDSOME TOILET SETS, SILVER
MOUNTED IN Fancy Leather Cases,
HANDSOME PUFF BOXES, CUT
GLASS BOTTLES in Great Variety,
HAIR BRUSHES in Leather Cases,
PERFUME SPRAYS, MANICURE
SETS, SCISSORS in Cases.

RAZORS IN CASES,

BY THE BEST MAKERS:

PATENT RAZOR STROPS, SHAVING
MIRRORS, HAND MIRRORS,
&c., &c., &c.SMOKERS'
REQUISITESA Very Fine Selection in Great Variety—
MEERSCHAUM and BRIAR PIPES,
CALABASH PIPES (a Special Assortment),
SMOKERS' COMPANIONS,
MEERSCHAUM and AMBER CIGAR
and CIGARETTE HOLDERS, CIGAR
and CIGARETTE CASES in real CRO-
CODILE SKIN, SNAKE SKIN, &c.,
TOBACCO POUCHES in HEAVY
CROCODILE, SNAKE and DOG SKIN,
&c., TOBACCO BOXES and JARS,
ASH TRAYS.All these Goods are of the Highest Class and
Specially Selected.

SUITABLE FOR

XMAS and NEW YEAR
PRESENTS.

THERMOS FLASKS

A most useful XMAS PRESENT for
SPORTSMEN, YACHTSMEN and
TOURISTS.A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ALFVANDRA BUILDINGS

AND

KOWLOON DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1908.

NOTICE.

All communications intended for publication in
"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" should be
addressed to The Editor, 1, Ice House Road, and
should be accompanied by the Writer's Name and
Address.Ordinary business communications should be addressed to
The Manager.The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for
any rejected MS., nor to return any Contribution.

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will be charged for a full month.The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the
world is 30 cents per quarter.Single Copies, Daily, ten cents. Weekly, twenty
cents (for cash only).

BIRTHS.

On December 10, 1908, at Changchow, to
the Rev. and Mrs. A. J. HUTCHINSON, of The
London Mission, a daughter, (Mabel).On Christmas Eve at Pootung to Mr. and
Mrs. J. A. PEACH, a son (John Noel Laing).On December 28, 1908, at Shanghai, the wife
of JOHN VAUGHAN, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On September 11, 1908, at Changchun, Hunan,
GRACE VENABLE BERT, wife of Dr. William
L. Bert, American Presbyterian Mission.On December 24, 1908, at Wuchang,
FRANCES, wife of T. J. Hollander, aged 38
years.On December 26, 1908, at Shanghai, Captain
JOHN DAVID CONSTABLE ARTHUR, aged 57
years.On December 27, 1908, L. A. J. RODRIGUES,
at Shanghai.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1909

JAPAN AND CHINA.

In an article translated by the *Japan
Chronicle* from the *Tokio Asahi*, it is remarked
that the general expectation that the new
Japanese Minister to China, Mr. Jijun,
would prove the right man in the right place
already seems to be justified. The relations
between Japan and China, which were for a
time somewhat strained, are now returning
to the former footing of friendship, so the
Tokio Journal asserts, which proceeds to re-
mark: The enthusiastic reception at Peking
recently accorded to Marquis Nobushima,
Count Hirokawa, and Viscount Kijoura, ofthe East Asiatic Common Literature Association,
should be regarded as a significant
sign of the times. Again, the expression by
Japan of a sincere feeling of sympathy for the
sad events which occurred in China recently
would appear to have given China a new
appreciation of Japan and the Japanese. At
any rate, it is a matter for congratulation
that the relations of the two countries have
begun to work smoothly. One thing that re-
mains to be disposed of is the boycott move-
ment in South China, regarding which it may
be expected the Japanese Government will
be equal to the situation. It would be no
exaggeration to say that Japan and China are
the axes on which the Far Eastern question
moves, and as such there is every reason to
expect the two nations to have the friend-
liest of relations. In order to bring their
relations into closer touch it is advisable that
a community of economic interests be opened
between them, and this can be accomplished
without much difficulty. To begin with,
Japan should abolish the import duty on rice,
while China, on her part, should remove the
embargo on the export of the cereal. It is
most encouraging to observe that China is
beginning to bestow some consideration on
this question, as otherwise the real stability
of her economy could hardly be maintained.
It will be recalled that when Chiang Chih-
tang was the Viceroy of the Hu and Kuang
provinces the export of rice was permitted
for a time. Now that Chang and Yuan Shih-
kai, the most progressive of Chinese states-
men, hold responsible positions in the Peking
Government, there is no doubt that
everything that tends to improve the condi-
tion of China and her relations with other
countries will be tried. Turning to Japan,
continues the *Tokyo Journal*, it will be seen
that the import duty on rice was devised and
put into force as one of the measures to
meet the exigencies of taxation during the late
war with Russia. The consensus of public
opinion, however, is in favour of repealing
the duty on rice, together with other injudi-
cious taxes such as the transit dues, the salt,
textile, and other imposts. First of all it is
desirable that the rice-tax be abolished, for
the reason that while the revenue from this
source does not affect the Treasury in a very
material degree it has far-reaching conse-
quences on the economy of the country. It
is more than probable that the abolition
of the import duty on rice will be opposed
by the landed proprietors, who are the only
people to profit by the retention of the mea-
sure, but when the welfare of the rest of the
people is taken into consideration no one
should hesitate to advocate the repeal of the
duty. The owners of landed property have
been in very good circumstances since last
year, despite the business depression that
has been so prevalent, and they would not
be affected by decrease more or less in the
price of rice. Even the *Seiyukai*, in whose
ranks representatives of the landed interest
are predominant, apparently recognises the
justice of an increase in the land-tax. Our
Tokyo contemporary does not like to urge
the increase of any tax just at present when
the Government is engaged in the task of
financial readjustment, and it is in favour of
the speedy abolition of the import duty on
rice instead of increasing the land-tax, be-
cause in the interests of landholders both
these measures could not be adopted at the
same time. This advice, if acted upon,
will not only have the effect of relieving
the distress among the poor, but will con-
tribute materially towards creating a com-
munity of economic interests between Japan
and China.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

INVITATIONS have been issued for the Volun-
teer Ball to be held at the City Hall on the
14th inst.The U. S. War Department has issued a denial
of the report that Mr. Bryan will become
Governor of the Philippines.The King's exequial empowering Mr. L. C.
Heryera to be Consul-General for Panama at
Hongkong has received His Majesty's sig-
nature.His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has
been pleased to appoint the Honourable Mr.
A. M. Thomson, Messrs. E. H. d'Aquino, R. H.
Crofton, S. B. C. Ross, and Dr. F. W. Clark to
be directors of the Widows' and Orphans' Pen-
sions, with effect from the 31st ultimo.The railway line from Kaifeng to Honanfu
was opened on 26th ult. The right to con-
struct a line from Kaifeng, capital of Honan,
by Honanfu to Hsinanfu, in the heart of Shenai,
was granted in the autumn of 1903 to a Belgian
Company. The section from Kaifeng to
Changchow where connection is made with the
Peking-Hankow Railway was opened in April
1907. With the new section now opened the
total length of line constructed up to date is
235 kilometres. The line serves a fertile and
populous country.A TOKIO message to the *Meijiichi* states that a
number of leading business men who are con-
nected with the Chambers of Commerce in-
tend to visit some of the representative mer-
chants in China next spring for the purpose of
improving the commercial relations between
the two countries and to remove the Chinese
misunderstandings regarding the Japanese. In
this connection, they held a meeting at the
Tokio Chamber of Commerce recently when
Mr. Okubo, Director of the Commercial and
Industrial Bureau of the Department of Agri-
culture and Commerce, attended by invitation
and expressed his views on the proposal.Owing to the strictness with which the officials
of Tungsanhsien, Fukien, have put a stop to the
planting of poppy in that district, a number of
country people, led on by desperadoes and evil
characters, mobbed a small detachment of sol-
diers charged with the duty of patrolling the
country-side and killed a lieutenant and several
soldiers.The richest and most eccentric man in Switzer-
land, Dr. Gabrieli, died the other day near
Geneva, leaving a fortune of \$500,000, most of
which he made in America. Gabrieli was a
man of the simplest habits and would wear the
shabbiest clothes. Many tourists visiting his
beautiful Chateau Chesi accepted his services
as guide under the impression that he was one
of the gardeners. Gabrieli used to take their
tips with glee.VICEROY Yang Shih-shiang of Chihli has
obtained the sanction of the Throne to con-
struct a "Pailou," or Memorial Arch in honour
of a wife of the late Marshal Ma Yu-k'ang, Pro-
vincial Commander-in-Chief of Chihli. It ap-
pears that the lady committed suicide as soon
as the late Marshal died, determined not to
survive her husband. Posthumous honours
are also to be given to the lady by the
Throne in recognition of her faithfulness to her
husband.INFORMATION has been received from the
Naval Authorities to the effect that His Majesty's
surveying ships *Merlin* and *Waterloo* are at pre-
sent at "East Dock Buoy" and "5a" buoy respec-
tively are engaged in taking observations of
tidal stream off the entrance to the New Admi-
ralty dry dock. Masters of craft and coxswains
of launches should keep clear of these vessels
and proceed at slow speed when passing, as
the wash set up by them is liable to interfere
with correct observations.MUCH regret will be expressed at the news of
the death of Captain J. D. C. Arthur which
took place at the Nursing Home on Saturday
last after a short illness, reports the *N. C. D.*
News, of 28th inst. A Scotsman by birth,
Captain Arthur was formerly in the Australian
Service on the coast of the Eastern and Austral-
ian Co., and left his command there to become
a Torres Straits pilot. He was also for many
years with Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and
afterwards joined the association of the Lower
Yangtze pilots. For the last eight or ten
years he has been retained by the Nippon
Yusen Kaisha and has been singularly success-
ful in his handling of the steamers of that
Company. His genial and generous disposi-
tion won him many friends who will deeply
sympathize with the family in the loss it has
sustained.

SHANGHAI OPIUM CONFERENCE.

The Wai-wu-pu on Christmas Day appointed
His Excellency Jui Chen, Provincial Treas-
urer at Soochow and formerly Taotai at
Shanghai, and His Excellency Tsai Nai-huang,
present Taotai of Shanghai, to represent China
at the Anti-Opium Conference to be opened in
Shanghai on February 1, in addition to the
three representatives already appointed.On the occasion of the opening of the Con-
ference a high official from Peking will be sent
as an additional mark of China's interest in the
proceedings.

THE ANTI-OPIMUM CAMPAIGN.

The Prince Regent has consulted with the
Grand Council the feasibility of issuing instruc-
tions to the Viceroys and Governors of the
various provinces prohibiting the consumption
of opium within two years. It is stated that
the proposition was deemed by the Grand
Council to be too sudden and that more time
should be given to the people to start new en-
terprises and to get rid of the habit. It is pro-
bable that an edict will be issued this year pro-
hibiting opium consumption by the end of the
3rd year of Hsuen Tung (1911).

TRADE MARK PROTEST.

The chief examiner of the Japanese Patent
Bureau has passed a decision on a protest
lodged by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.,
Ltd. On May 15 the firm applied to the Bureau
for registering a trade mark with the design
showing "the Rising Sun in centre with wheat
stalks at both sides; 'Sun Chop' at the
upper part and 'J. M. C.' at the lower." The
authorities of the office dismissed the applica-
tion on the ground that the mark resembled
that of No. 9,857 registered. The applicants
contended that the two marks were different in
form and character described. The chief ex-
aminer refused to admit the protest in accord-
ance with the 4th clause of Art. 2 of the Trade
Mark Law.

A NEW DOCKYARD.

The Viceroy of Hupeh, H. E. Chan Kuei-
lung, proposes to construct a dockyard at
Pehshi Chow, Wuchang, to build men of war
for the Yangtsiang Squadron and to build
and repair vessels for the steamship companies.
He has, with that object in view, deputed Fu
Chia-nien, Hsinang, Yang Taotai, to proceed
to Foochow to inspect the dock there and to
investigate their methods and expenditure.—
Shanghai Times.

SHIPPING AND MAILS

MAILS DUE.

French (*Sydney*) 4th inst.
Indian (*Gregory Apar*) 4th inst.
Indian (*Fookang*) 6th inst.
English (*Dilhi*) 6th inst, 3 p.m.
German (*Prins Sigismund*) 6th inst.
Indian (*Kamsang*) 10th inst.The J. C. S. N. Co.'s s.s. *Fookang* from Cal-
cutta and the Straits left Hongkong for this port
on 1st inst., at 7 a.m.The N. Y. K. s.s. *Sado Maru*, European
Line, left Shanghai for this port on 1st inst.,
and is expected here on 4th inst.The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s s.s. *Dilhi*, left
Singapore for this port on 1st inst., at 6 p.m.,
with the outward English Mails, and is due
here on 6th inst., at 3 p.m.

New Year Honour.

SIR JACOB SASSOON.

SENIOR PARTNER OF HONGKONG FIRM.

A private telegram was received in the Col-
ony to-day that Mr. Jacob Sassoon, senior
partner of the Hongkong firm of Messrs. E. D.
Sassoon & Co., has been created a Baronet.
Sir Jacob was the representative of the firm in
Hongkong, which his late father founded,
about thirty years ago. The affairs of this
leading firm at the present day are left in
the capable hands of Mr. C. S. Gubbay
to control. The popular manager of the
Hongkong firm was the recipient of hearty
congratulations from a number of promi-
nent citizens and mercantile representatives
in the course of the forenoon to-day at his
office, where the leading exponents of Chinese
business interests did themselves the pleasure
of calling and offering their felicitations to Mr.
Gubbay.Quite recently Sir Jacob Sassoon made the
magnificent gift of ten lakhs of rupees, for the
establishment of the Central Institute of Science
in Bombay.

THE HISTORY OF THE MORT HOUSE

of David Sassoon is closely bound up with
the growth of commercial Bombay for near-
ly three-quarters of a century. Mr. David
Sassoon, the original founder, was one of the
chief Treasurers into the kingdom of the
Great Sultan in Bagdad holding the title of
"Nasi" or Prince of the Land. Owing to political
affairs he had to seek voluntary exile, and landed
in Bombay in 1831. The rising trade of
the capital soon attracted his remarkable
genius and aptitude for commerce and with-
in a few years, he came to be reckoned
amongst the merchant princes of the day.
About this period, the Eastern trade at-
tracted the attention of enterprising traders.
Mr. David sent his eldest son Elias to Canton
in 1845 and, soon after, was successful in estab-
lishing business centres in all the treaty ports
in China opened for trade to British subjects.
The enormous volume of eastern trade which
the Sassoons then carried on contributed
largely to the gigantic fortune which they built
up. This continued until 1864 when old
David Sassoon died and in 1866, his eldest
son Elias, started business to such an
enormous extent that the firm soon
had three branches in China, two in Japan,
three in England, three in India, besides a
branch in the Persian Gulf, Bagdad, Germany,
America, and even Africa. After the death of
his father in 1866, Jacob transferred himself to
Bombay as the head-quarters of the firm, and
was materially assisted by his brothers Edward
and Meyer, who, moving for a while between
China and India, afterwards settled in England,
looking after the trade with the west. It was
at this time that he was happily wedded to
Rachel, daughter of a wealthy merchant of
Calcutta. Of this lady, it may be said that her
liberality is only equalled by her goodness.
The keen mind of Sir Jacob soon perceived
the great possibilities of the

LOCAL TEXTILE INDUSTRY

and to early as 1885, he built his first mill, the
Alexandra Mill. He subsequently established
the E. D. Sassoon Mill, E. D. Sassoon Dye-
works, the Rachel Sassoon Mill, and the Jacob
Sassoon Mill, the last being the largest mill in
India. It is remarkable that Sir Jacob preserves
a strong and unshaken faith in the future of this
industry, notwithstanding the dark clouds which
have sometimes hung over it.While the Sassoons have thus materially
contributed to

THE ADVANCING TIDE OF COMMERCE

AND INDUSTRY,

they have also given with a large-hearted and
judicious liberality. Reference may be made
to their important donations to the cause of
suffering humanity on founding the David Sas-
soon Hospital, the Elias Sassoon Lyng-
in Ward, the Sassoon Infirmary and Lepre-
ry Asylum and last, but not least, the Jacob
Sassoon European General Hospital, for which
an additional sum of two lakhs of rupees was
given by Sir Jacob recently. To these should
be added the lakh of rupees given to Lord
Lamington for the Central Nursing Fund.
They have also contributed towards the educa-
tional progress of the people. The Sassoon
Reformatory, the Sassoon Mechanics Institute,
the Byculla Sassoon High School, a lakh and
a half devoted towards the Elphinstone High
Schools and now the Sassoon Central Institute
of Science bespeak the zeal and enthusiasm
they have evinced in the cause of letters. Be-
sides these, a lakh of rupees was given towards
the Salter's Home.

THESE BENEVOLENT CHARITIES

have not been given at the sacrifice of the claims
of the Jewish community. Sir Jacob Sassoon
is perhaps the principal philanthropist who has
helped towards the amelioration of his own com-
munity and this has won for him the position
of the head of the Jewish community in India.
He has built and maintained a synagogue in
Bombay, Poona and Hongkong for them. He
has provided schools for them of which the
principal one, a high school, was latterly en-
dowed with two lakhs of rupees in Byculla.
Besides these, separate funds are provided for
giving feasts to the poor on holiday for giving
relief to the needy and the disabled among
them.In private life Sir Jacob has suffered more
than most men. A serious disability of the
eyeight has prevented him for many years
from taking his due share in the social and
public life of the day. His wife has been a per-
manent invalid for a long time. His only child
died in his infancy, and naturally of retired
habits, these misfortunes have made him some-
what of a recluse. He is intensely religious,
and his simple ways of piety and benevolence
are in striking contrast to his colossal fortune
and high position in life.Mr. Heinrich Holland, who is motoring round
the world, will deliver a lecture at the German
Club at 9 p.m. to-morrow. The lecture will be
illustrated by lantern slides.

KOWLOON CRICKET CLUB.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S SPORTS.

The fourth annual children's sports under
the auspices of the Kowloon Cricket Club
were held at King's Park yesterday, and
proved, as in former years, a decided success.
This foregathering of children promoted by
Kowloon's premier cricket club has come to be
a popular affair, and rightly so, when it is con-
sidered how many little hearts are gladdened
by the good things which each of them has an
equal chance of winning. There was a record
attendance of members and their friends, who
came to see the little ones vying with one an-
other in healthy rivalry for the afternoon's
honours. The grounds were prettily decorated
with flags of many nations, and added addi-
tional colour to the vivid costumes of the fair
sex. The weather was delightful, the sky
being almost cloudless blue. Shortly before
the conclusion of the sports, and while the
events were still in progress, a few bars
of the National Anthem announced the
arrival of H.E. the Governor and suite,
who remained interested spectators of the
rest of the proceedings. It was extremely
unfortunate that Lady Lugard, who was to
have presented the prizes, had unavoidably to
be absent through indisposition, as, as His
Excellency himself had stated, if there was
one event in the year which would otherwise have
invested it by the absence of Lady Lugard's
genial personality, especially after her pro-
tracted absence in the homeland. By kind
permission of the Officers, the Band of the
105th Mahrattas enlivened the proceedings
with the following selections of music:—
March: Salute the Standard, The Star of
Glenlivet, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
Selection, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
Two Steps, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
Lancers, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
Song, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
Selection, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
Valse, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
Caprice, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
March, The Gipsy Life, The Gipsy
Galop, The Gipsy Life, The GipsyThe following attractive programme was got
up, and supplied great fun to the children and
spectators alike:—Boys' Events: Potato Race; Dressing Race;
Cock Fight; Obstacle Race; Flat Race; Egg
and Spoon Race; Tug-of-War; Flat Race;
Victoria Cross Race; Flat Race; Flat Race;
Wheelbarrow Race.
Girls' Events: Flat Race; Stopping Race;
Post Box Race; Skipping Competition; Flat
Race; Obstacle Race; Skipping Competition;
Flat Race; Egg and Spoon Race; Flat Race;
Flat Race; Clothes-Hanging Race.There was also a Boys' and Girls' Whistling
Race.At the conclusion of the Sports, H.E. the
Governor presented the prizes to the successful
competitors. A hearty vote of thanks was
accorded His Excellency and three cheers and
a "tiger" for Sir Frederick and Lady Lugard
brought the proceedings to a close.

DARING ARMED ROBBERY.

CLEVER CAPTURE BY THE POLICE.

On Hogmanay night, when other people
were enjoying themselves in a manner which
befitted the season of the year, six individuals
paid a visit to an opium den at 236, Queen's
Road Central. They called for a smoke and
had a smoke and remained until the last guest
had left the premises.It was before midnight that the master of the
den asked them to leave, as it was closing
time. They made several excuses, and, tak-
ing the owner unaware, they attacked him,
threw him to the floor, gagged and bound him.
Of course, his five *fellows* went to his rescue,
and quickly they were treated likewise. At
this time the robbers had produced daggers,
with which they threatened to slay the first
man who gave the alarm. Somehow or
other one of the *fellows* managed to get out of
the building, and raised the alarm. Some-
body on the floor above blew a police-whistle,
which brought a *laking* to the scene. At that
moment the marauders left the building—one
of whom was seized by the policeman. Another
robber came up, and, armed with a dagger,
he threatened the officer. Being unable to
arrest two, especially when one was armed
with a dangerous weapon, the *laking* hung on
to his man and allowed the other to escape.By this time headquarters were informed of
the trouble, and Chief Detective Inspector
Hanson and Detective Sergeant Appleton and
a party of officers proceeded to the scene, and
surrounded a house in Second Street. Detec-
tive Appleton was sent up to the roof of the
adjoining house, and there he met three men
peeping through the hole in the sky-light—the
very house which the policemen had raided.
He pounced on them, but only succeeded in
capturing two, while the other slipped down a
trap door—into the hands, so to speak, of the
officers below.In all four men were arrested, not without a
struggle, which was subdued in very little time.
They were removed to the Central Police
Station, and this morning were arraigned
before Mr. J. R. Wood, charged with armed
robbery.They were—Lam Chun (25) a copple,
Shing Wong Street, Chan Wai Sik (18) of 41
Wing Street, Chan Shang (21) a silvermith,
57, Second Street, and Tong Wa (19) a ricksha
coolie, 19, Peel Street.A plea of not guilty was entered and the
accused were remanded.It is pleasing to remark that such a smart
capture had been effected, and great praise is
due to Mr. Hanson and Mr. Appleton for what
they had done. Of the \$17,75 which had been
removed from the till no less than \$12,77 were
recovered.His Excellency the Governor has been pleased
to recognize Mr. W. Kien as being in charge
of the consulate-general of the Netherlands
in Hongkong during the absence of
Mr. Dr. van de Sande Bakhuizen.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH"
SERVICE.

The "Fatsan" Boycott.

POLICE SUMMONED TO PREVENT
DISTURBANCE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheng Po"]

Canton, 1st January,
5.25 p.m.The moving spirit in the boycott
of the s.s. *Fatsan* is one Fok Wing.
The assistance of the police had
to be summoned in order to prevent
a disturbance.

AN OBSTINATE SOCIETY.

PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS' CONTRETEMPS.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 31st December.

Yesterday, at one o'clock in the afternoon, a
general meeting was held by the Canton Self-
Government Society, when there was an un-
usually large number of people present to dis-
cuss matters in connection with the *Fatsan*
incident. Hsiao Kung Hung Yau was elected
chairman to preside over the meeting.
Speeches were made by several gentlemen
and a number of letters received by the Society
from various individuals and guilds touching
the case were read before the assembly. After
considerable discussion, the following resolu-
tions were passed:—1. The Society will send a
letter to the Portuguese Consul asking him
whether he can give any proof as to the allega-
tion that the Society bribed the witnesses,
and also for an explanation why the Society
should be termed an illegal body, etc. 2. A
petition will be presented to the Viceroy asking
him to file representations in detail to the Por-
tuguese Minister at Peking against the Consul
through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; if a
Court is to sit, a delegation of the Society will
be sent to attend it. 3. The Society itself will
moreover lodge a complaint against the Consul
to his Home Government as well as the
Portuguese Minister at Peking and will also at
the same time wire to the leading papers to
report the whole case for the purpose of every-
body for adjustment. Though the above
resolutions have been passed, it is not certain
that they will be carried into effect, and the
result of the case remains to be seen.

[Ruler's.]

The Recent Earthquake.

LONDON, 30th December.

The Italian Government has received in-
formation by wireless, that 50,000 people
were killed in Messina, fire completing the
destruction of the town.1,000 were killed in Gazzi, and 500 in
Palmi.The total casualties are estimated at
75,000.

Later.

The Earthquake.

Refugees declare that Messina is a gi-
gantic mass of ruins and a rubbish heap.
The town was for many hours exposed to
the pillage of bands of ruffians, who reaped
a rich booty.

The survivors underwent terrible sufferings.

The shock at Reggio was unimaginable in
its violence, and the prefect reports that the
centre of the town has subsided to sea level,
and was inundated by huge waves.Only a few villas on the highest points
are left standing.

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

A MISUNDERSTANDING REMOVED.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 31st December.

Yesterday morning the British Consul pro-
ceeded to see the Viceroy in connection with
the *Tai On* case. The seizure of the steamer
is reported to be the result of a misunder-
standing in the translation of the steamer's name
Tai On, which sounds *Tai An* in the mandarin
dialect. The papers of the steamer were ac-
cordingly

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.
TIENTSIN MONEY MARKET.
CHINESE OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN CONSULS IN CONFERENCE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 31st December.
In view of the critical condition of the money market in Tientsin, there was a meeting of Chinese officials and Foreign Consuls at the Viceroy's yamen.
It was proposed at the meeting to render available a sum of one million taels to avert a financial crisis.

BOXER INDEMNITY.

SUGGESTION BY FOREIGN MINISTERS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 31st December.
The British, Russian, French and German Ministers at Peking propose to suggest to their respective Governments the remission of a part of the Boxer indemnity in token of their friendship towards China.

EMPRESS'S GENEROSITY.

PROPOSED SURRENDER OF FUNDS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 31st December.
The Empress Dowager has informed the Prince Regent of her determination to hand over the whole amount of the funds in the Imperial Palace for the purposes of naval reorganization.

EHO PARK.

ONE MILLION ANNUAL SAVING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 31st December.
By giving up the Eho Park, it is estimated that there will be a saving of one million taels a year.

UNRULY TIBETANS.

CRITICAL CONDITION AT LHASSA.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 31st December.
The Senior Amban in Tibet has memorialized the Central Government that, owing to the unruly nature of the people, Chiu Yee-fung is unable to come and take up his appointment (as Viceroy).
As the Dalai Lama has not yet returned the date of affairs in Tibet is somewhat critical.

THE OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA.

The revenue of the Osaka Shoshin Kaisha for the present half-year has shown a notable increase owing to the favourable result of the coasting trade and the retrenchment of expenditure. The total revenue from July to November amounted to ¥4,719,000, against which the expenses were ¥2,581,000, leaving a profit of ¥2,138,000, an increase of over ¥200,000 on the figures for the corresponding period of last year and of more than ¥160,000 as compared with the period from January to May last.

THE WEATHER.

The following report is from Mr. F. G. Figg, Director of the Hongkong Observatory:—
On the 2nd at 11.55 a.m.—The barometer has risen considerably in S.E. Japan; and fallen quickly over China, particularly along the Yangtze valley where a depression appears to be developing.
Pressure is now highest over the Yellow Sea and W. Japan.
Gradients have decreased and moderate monsoon may be expected in the Formosa Channel, and fresh monsoon over the China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inches.

FORECAST.

1.—Hongkong and Neighbourhood, E. winds, strong to moderate; fair.
2.—Formosa Channel, N.E. and E. winds, moderate.
3.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Lamock, same as No. 1.
4.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan, same as No. 1.

RACING TOPICS.

SOME INTERESTING NOTES.

It was not so very long ago that I gave my readers to understand—I believe it was shortly after the Foochow Races had been concluded—that a few of the winners at that port were to come to Hongkong to contest for honours at our annual Carnival.

My prediction, for prediction it really was, has come true. For was it not at an early hour yesterday morning that the P. and O. steamer *Stella* steamed into the harbour, from Foochow, with four race ponies on board, and, incidentally, a cargo of tea, for England?

The ponies were:—Heraldic (the winner of the French Champions), Mohawk Kid, both consigned to John Peel's stables; Gamechick, the property of Mr. J. C. Oswald; and Kandahar Chief, belonging to Mr. Baker.

These ponies were landed in the forenoon. Gamechick and Kandahar Chief are to be sold by public auction within the Jockey Club compound on the 6th instant, at 7.45 a.m. I append below a list of the races won by these ponies, and it is to be hoped they will fetch good prices.

Gamechick—Winner, British Navy Cup, Hankow Spring Meeting, 1907, one and a quarter miles; winner, Chilli Cup, Hankow Spring Meeting, 1907, one and a quarter miles; winner, Tushin Plate, Shanghai Paper Hunt Races, March, 1908, one and a quarter miles; second, Chukaza Cup, Shanghai Spring Meeting, 1908, 3 quarter mile; third, Great Northern Plate, Shanghai Spring Meeting 7 Furlongs; winner, Stewards Cup, Foochow Winter Meeting, 1908, half mile.

Kandahar Chief—second, The Maiden Stakes, Shanghai Autumn Meeting, 1908, 3 quarter mile; winner, Pagoda Cup, Shanghai Autumn Meeting, 7 Furlongs; second, Pou-Ma-Ting Cup, Shanghai Autumn Meeting, One and a quarter miles; winner, Tea Men's Cup, Foochow Winter Meeting 1908, 1 mile 3 Furlongs; second, Champions, Foochow Winter Meeting, one and a quarter miles.

On New Year Eve, by the steamship *K'wang-ang*, from Shanghai, there arrived four ponies (three Derby griffins and the well-known Kirkwood) for Mr. W. J. Gresson. Of the Derby griffins the flea-bitten grey appears to be the best. In racing circles, it is whispered that he was purchased at the Horse Bazaar auction and was knocked down for Tls. 1,900.

The 1,900 taeler, according to all accounts from the Northern Settlement, is a grand mover, and it will be no surprise to anyone to see him running first or second in the event for which he was purchased.

The other two Derby runners were purchased privately at Fred. Dallas's Horse Repository and are supposed to have cost Tls. 1,000 apiece. Readers must not open their eyes wide and stare into vacancy when they hear the prices paid, for what the uninitiated call "goats," as compared with the English thoroughbred, for 1 know of a case in which double that amount was paid for one of those "goats," which turned out at race time to be a goat indeed, so far as running was concerned.

There was a very good turnout at the course yesterday morning to witness some of the griffins cover the distance. The entire morning was spent in watching the three furlongs and quarter mile done, and only in one case was the mile attempted. This was done by a black pony belonging to The Buffs.

The black started out from the beginning in good style, and was joined in later by three others. The distance was covered in 2.37, last three-quarters 1.53, last quarter .38.

For the subs, the best performance was done by Mr. Moir's marble grey, the quarter being covered in the splendid time of .30 sec.

Mr. Anton's yellow dun (Gresson in the pigskin), accompanied by Mr. Gresson's chestnut ("boy" on top), raced the three furlongs. The last quarter was registered in .34.

Gen. Broadwood's black (owner up) half mile last quarter in .34; moving in fine style.

Mr. Toeg's bay, three furlongs; last quarter .31.

The same owner's grey was put to the same task, his last quarter being negotiated in .30. Mr. Toeg has only drawn two griffins and a lucky man he is to have "pulled" such good ones.

All the racing was done on the sand track, and it will be noticed from the above that some very good "times" were clocked. As the training gets hotter I hope to see the others, or some of them at least, come forward.

RIDING BOY.

CLEVER BURGARS.

INGENUOUS ATTEMPT TO ENTER A TOBACCO SHOP.

New Year Eve a year ago a number of burglars forced an entrance into Messrs. Sayce and Company's tobacco store in Beaconsfield Arcade and got away with a good haul. Curious to remark, at the same time this year an other visit was paid to the shop, but on this occasion the thieves got nothing for their pains.
At about eight o'clock on the morning of the 31st ult., when Mr. Sayce went to his business house to open up, he was surprised to see the large pot palm, which is usually placed against the wall, standing in front of the shop door. Quickly removing the obstruction, he examined the door and at the bottom panel, on the right hand side, he saw a number of holes, ten were counted, which had been bored with an instrument. The door was opened and instead of finding the place in disorder, Mr. Sayce discovered that the robbers did not succeed in their mission.

That the scheme to break into the shop was a clever one can be understood, when it is mentioned that the palm was shifted in front of the door so as to conceal the person while he proceeded to remove the panel to admit himself and his colleagues. Their failure to complete the task shows that they were disturbed. The matter was reported to the police. But if the robbers intend only to annoy Mr. Sayce on New Year's Eve, and that on New Year's Eve, then vigilance is not required.

KOWLOON DOCK BALL.

SCOTSMEN'S "AT HOME."

The Hongkong staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company gave their annual Ball on New Year's Eve, and, as usual, largely attended. It would not do merely to use the hackneyed phrases usually employed in describing social functions, but in order to obtain an idea of the general hilarity and goodwill which prevailed on Thursday night, one should have been present at the Dock Co.'s dance. Mr. Robt. Mitchell, the general manager of Hongkong's premier industry, once more proved his abilities as a host, and the staff also spared no pains in making the guests feel at home. New Year's Eve is perhaps the one occasion in the year when all sordid thoughts are dispensed with, and the refreshing sense of goodwill which is synonymous with this time of the year found a responsive call in the breasts of all present. Dances there were plenty and drinks went round freely. The New Year was ushered in by the time-honoured singing of "Auld-Sang-Syne," when the lily cheeks and hearty hand-shakes were a more striking testimony of the general feeling than would have been a thousand nicely-worded speeches. A feature of the Ball was the electric device "1909" which flashed forth at the stroke of twelve.

During the proceedings, Mr. T. W. Robertson proposed to toast of the staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, which was responded to by Mr. W. Wilson, who proposed the health of the "The Visitors." The latter toast was answered by Mr. G. T. Lloyd. The manager then asked the gathering to drink to "The Ladies," which was responded to by Dr. Forsyth in a happy little speech.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE LIST.

Reviewing the share business for the week Messrs. Erich Georg & Co. write on 31st ult.:

Since issue of our last report Christmas holidays have intervened, and this week but little business has been transacted. The sterling demand rate of exchange on London closes at 1s. 13 1/2 d., while rates on Shanghai are Tls. 75 1/2 for a Bank T/T, and Tls. 75 1/2 for a 3 days sight private draft, the rate in Shanghai on this for a 3 days sight Private Bill being Tls. 75 1/2. Bar-silver in London has advanced to 23 1/2 d., and Consols are quoted at 83 1/2 1/4. The Bank of England's rate of discount is 2 1/2 per cent while the private rate of discount is 4 per cent.

Bank Shares.—A few Hongkong and Shanghai sold at \$84; but more shares were offered; the London rate has advanced to 82 1/2 cts. Nationals are unchanged.

Marine Insurance Shares.—A few Unions sold at \$83; at which figure shares are on offer. North China's sold at Tls. 105 and continue in request. Canton have sellers at \$95, while China Traders at \$87, and Yangtze at \$107 1/2 are wanted.

Fire Insurance Shares.—Hongkong have been done at \$32; but shares are offering. China's are easier, and \$106 has been accepted.

Shipping Shares.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have sellers at \$97. Inds. are unchanged here; in Shanghai Tls. 31 has been accepted, while the London rates are 3 1/2 for preference, and 4 1/2 for deferred shares. China and Manilla are weak at \$14. Douglas's changed hands at \$33, and a few more shares can be placed at that figure. Star ferries, as well as Waterboats, show no change.

Transports have buyers at 47 shillings; the London rate having improved to 48 shillings; a second interim dividend of 1s. (coupon No. 11) has been declared on account of the year 1908 making to 2s. 2d. per share to date. The dividend is payable on 2nd January, 1909.

Refineries.—A few China Sugars are for sale at \$12 1/2, and Luzons are weak with sellers at \$18.

Mining Shares.—Charbonnages are unchanged. Raub's have sellers at \$82; but night's Hongkong Telegraph prints the Mining Manager's report for the four weeks ended 5th inst. Chinese Engineering and Mining Company's shares are in demand at Tls. 17 1/2; the total output of the Company's three mines for the week ended 12th instant, amounted to 30,789 tons of coal, and the sales during the same period to 30,64 tons.

Docks, Wharves, Godowns, &c.—There is nothing to report under this heading, except that Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been in some demand, resulting in sales at \$43 to \$45, and more shares can be placed. Shanghai Docks are quiet at Tls. 75. As mentioned in our circular of 19th instant, an interim dividend of Tls. 24 per share on account of the current book year has been declared. Same is payable on 4th proximo, until which date the transfer books have been closed.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—The only changes are: Kowloon Lands have sellers at \$33, and Hotels buyers at \$84. Notices have been reported.

Cotton Mills.—Shanghai quotes: Ewos Tls. 76 buyers, Internationals Tls. 67 1/2 buyers, Laou Kung Mows Tls. 73 sellers, and Soychees Tls. 285 buyers. Hongkong Cottons have buyers at \$9 and sellers at \$10.
Sundry Manufacturing Companies.—Hongkong Electric sold and have further inquiries at \$18. Green Island Cements changed owners at \$9.90 and \$9.80 and have further sellers at \$9.90. Ices are obtainable at \$20. Ropes fetched \$24, but more shares are obtainable. Other stocks under this heading without sales and unchanged.

Miscellaneous.—China Provident sold at \$10. In other stocks under this heading nothing has been done and rates are the same as reported last.
We take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

REGULATIONS for the issue of licences to wholesale dealers in cocaine and its salts together with the conditions on which such licences are granted, are published in the *Chinese*.

THE BANISHMENT ORDERS.

HONGKONG AND THE BOYCOTT.

JAPANESE CRITICISMS.

A very unfortunate state of things appears to prevail at Hongkong, where the Government has come into collision with the more influential Chinese by action taken as the result of the recent boycott riots. What actually caused those riots is still a mystery. To the outside observer the incident appears like a sudden outburst of popular feeling without any special cause to provoke it, but this is merely a confession of ignorance; it means that the causes are unknown, for it is difficult to believe that a more or less ignorant populace should have suddenly decided, without some exciting cause, that the boycott against the Japanese must be enforced by a display of antipathy to merchants who were believed to be secretly breaking the compact not to deal in Japanese goods. In Japan it has been said that the strange recrudescence of the boycott, at a time when it seemed to be dying down, was caused by the injudicious speech of a Japanese professor in Tokyo, who, addressing a number of Chinese students, interspersed Chinese character and Chinese manners and customs, with the result that the students sent a copy of the speech to the leaders of the boycott movement in Hongkong. That this was an exciting cause of the riot appears unlikely, for if there were any special justification of such a character to produce the disturbance there can be no doubt that it would have been made public. In the lack of any special cause for the outbreak that could be attributed to the Japanese, and thus in a way afford a justification, the explanation probably is that the leaders of the boycott, finding that it was gradually weakening in force, determined on intimidating merchants who were suspected of breaking the compact by organising a public demonstration of antipathy. What gives support to this theory is that no demonstration was made against the Japanese in Hongkong, as would almost certainly have been the case if the Japanese had given any cause for the action taken.

It would appear in the light of these facts that the Government of Hongkong has come to the conclusion that the riot was the work of the leaders of the boycott movement, who were morally, if not legally, responsible for what occurred. To bring home the responsibility to the persons suspected was difficult if not impossible, and the Government thereupon determined to avail itself of a weapon in its hands the use of which has previously been reserved for protection of the colony against the criminal classes. By virtue of the powers conferred upon him, the Governor of Hongkong can order the deportation or banishment of any person without giving reason therefor save the maintenance of the public peace, nor has the person banished any remedy, for an appeal to the Courts could only result in the endorsement of the Governor's action under the powers conferred upon him. Hitherto we believe the powers have been exercised only in the case of Chinese who have come into the colony for a criminal purpose, and who, after conviction and imprisonment, have been banished. Even so it is provided in the Hongkong Charter that the Governor shall in no case, except when the offence has been of a political nature unaccompanied by any other grave crime make it a condition of any pardon or remission of sentence that the offender shall be banished from, or shall absent himself or be removed from, the colony. It would seem from this clause that while banishment cannot be substituted for a penalty in a criminal case, it may be so substituted where the offence is political. In consequence of the recent boycott riots the Governor has brought into operation the powers conferred upon him, and without any form of trial or open inquiry has banished several influential Chinese merchants and two editors of vernacular papers on charges of inciting the riot. Included among those ordered to be deported were a piece-goods merchant and an insurance broker in the employ of a prominent British firm. It is scarcely necessary to say that the action of the Governor has aroused intense indignation among the Chinese in Hongkong, and has been viewed with grave misgiving by British merchants, while the China Association has made a representation to the authorities on the subject. One of the journalists ordered to be deported, the Editor of the *Sheung-po*, distributed a manifesto scathingly denouncing the authorities who banished Chinamen without granting them a hearing. The manifesto deprecated the restriction of individual liberty, and warned the Chinese of the insecurity of investing capital in Hongkong while they were subject to summary deportation. After taking legal advice, the Editor of the *Sheung-po* declined to leave the colony, preferring to be arrested and brought before a Court in order to force the hearing of his case. By this time the Governor would seem to have come to the opinion that he had gone too far, and the case of the Editor of the *Sheung-po* was re-considered, with the result that the order of deportation was cancelled.

Unfortunately, the mischief was already done, and perhaps even more bitterness was caused by the cancellation of the order in the case of the man who showed fight and persistence and its enforcement to the case of influential merchants who had invested their capital in the colony but were ordered to leave at brief notice. The Self-Government Society of Canton, which was responsible in the first place for the boycott and may have had some hand in instigating the riot, took up the matter of their compatriots and a hostile feeling began to be shown against British merchants and British trade. Just at this moment occurred the unfortunate incident on the British steamer *Falaka*, when a Chinese was alleged to have died as the result of a kick from a Portuguese ticket-collector. As the result of an inquiry at the British Consulate at Canton, it was shown that the man died from natural causes and not from

To-day's Advertisements.

NOTICE.

THE Interest and Responsibility in our Firm of our late Mr. CARL GEORG RICHARD BRODERSEN ceased upon his death, which took place at Shanghai on the 2nd October last.
Mr. HANS AUGUST SIEBS, and Mr. EUGEN SIEBERT have this day been admitted as partners in our firm.

SIEMSEN & CO.

Shanghai, Hongkong & China, 1st January, 1909. [53]

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR. PERCY YESTER has been appointed LOCAL MANAGER of the above Company's HONGKONG BRANCH from this date.

W. H. TRENCHARD DAVIS,

Manager for China. Shanghai, 1st January, 1909. [54]

NOTICE.

MR. ERNST ARNDT, having retired from our employment, ceases to sign our firm per procuration from this date.
ARNHOLD KARBURG & CO.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1909. [55]

PHILATELIC NOVELTY.

PRESENTS.

BAGS OF USED POSTAGE STAMPS.

Containing:

All Asiatic Stamps.	All Chinese Stamps.
4,000 for \$8.00	4,000 for 14.50
3,000 " 7.00	3,000 " 11.50
2,000 " 5.00	2,000 " 8.50
1,000 " 3.00	1,000 " 5.50
500 " 1.50	500 " 2.50

Also Stamps in Pockets and Sets, and other Philatelic Requisites at prices to suit every body.

VIEW POSTCARDS, ALBUMS, HINGES, RAPHAEL TUCKER'S TOY BOOKS AND RELIEF SCRAPES, MANILA CIGARS AND CIGARETTES, &c., &c.
Inspection invited. GRACA & Co., No. 27, Des Vieux Road. [56]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer.

"NYANZA,"

FROM ANTWERP, LONDON, MALTA, PORT SAID, SUEZ AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out mark by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 7th instant, at 4 P.M., will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee's and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognised.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1909.

violence, but the Chinese are not satisfied, and this incident has added fuel to the flame caused by the deportations at Hongkong.

Undoubtedly the Hongkong authorities are in a very difficult position. Accusations wholly unfounded have been made by Japanese newspapers against British merchants at Hongkong for instigating the boycott—accusations which have been stated by the Japanese Consul there to be without foundation, and it may be that the Hongkong Government became convinced that its duty was to show in some decided manner that the British authorities had no sympathy with the boycott against the Japanese and would employ all the resources within its power against Hongkong being made a basis of operations.

As we showed in the case of the boycott against Americans, and more recently as regards the boycott against Japanese, the use of such a weapon inflicts almost as much injury upon its wielders as upon its victims. But Governments, with every will to prevent the use or abuse of the weapon, are powerless against exclusive dealing. They can intervene to prevent or punish illegal acts arising from a boycott or proved intimidation; they cannot compel merchants to buy or deal in goods produced by a particular individual or nation. The action taken by the Government of Hongkong in issuing these deportation orders seems to us unwise, especially in view of the fact that they are based not on proved complicity in acts of violence or intimidation, but on mere suspicion. Not only will the boycott not be checked by such methods, but it will obtain a new lease of life and possibly extend its area of operations. The boycott was declared in retaliation for what the Chinese believed an act of injustice committed by Japan in the matter of the *Tatsu-maru*; it will not be brought to an end by giving cause for the hot-blooded of the Self-Government Society to denounce it as an injustice of Great Britain. Time and patience, with stern enforcement of the law against overt acts of violence, we believe to be the only remedies for a state of things which does harm to the best interests of both China and Japan.—*Japan Chronicle*.

We have received calendars, etc. from the following firms:—Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. (Nobel's Ammunition Co.) N. T. Fernandes & Sons, Macao, Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japan Mail S. S. Co.), Bradley & Co. (the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co.), and the Associated Vineyard Cultivators Co.

Notice of Firm.

NOTICE.

I HAVE this day established myself under the name of ARNDT & CO. with Offices at 98, Queen's Road Central and will carry on business as GENERAL IMPORTER.

ERNST ARNDT.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1909. [1126]

Intimations.

THE IMPERIAL COLONIAL CLUB.

THE above Club is formed chiefly for COLONIAL and OVER-SEAS MEMBERS; it is situated at No. 24, PICCADILLY (the centre of Clubland), opposite the Green Park.

The Club has a Bridge Section, Reception, Dining, Billiard Room, Smoking Lounge, Reading Room and Library.

Ladies are eligible as Members.
Entrance Fee, Five Guineas, Annual Subscription, Five Guineas.

Further particulars from

THE ORGANISING SECRETARY,

84, PICCADILLY, W.

London, 10th January, 1908. [1766]

PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.

WEEK DAYS.

7.00 a.m.	7.30 a.m.	8.00 a.m.	8.30 a.m.	9.00 a.m.	9.30 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	10.30 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	11.30 a.m.	12.00 p.m.	12.30 p.m.	1.00 p.m.	1.30 p.m.	2.00 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	3.30 p.m.	4.00 p.m.	4.30 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	5.30 p.m.	6.00 p.m.	6.30 p.m.	7.00 p.m.	7.30 p.m.	8.00 p.m.	8.30 p.m.	9.00 p.m.	9.30 p.m.	10.00 p.m.	10.30 p.m.	11.00 p.m.	11.30 p.m.	12.00 a.m.	12.30 a.m.	1.00 a.m.	1.30 a.m.	2.00 a.m.	2.30 a.m.	3.00 a.m.	3.30 a.m.	4.00 a.m.	4.30 a.m.	5.00 a.m.	5.30 a.m.	6.00 a.m.	6.30 a.m.	7.00 a.m.	7.30 a.m.	8.00 a.m.	8.30 a.m.	9.00 a.m.	9.30 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	10.30 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	11.30 a.m.	12.00 p.m.	12.30 p.m.	1.00 p.m.	1.30 p.m.	2.00 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	3.30 p.m.	4.00 p.m.	4.30 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	5.30 p.m.	6.00 p.m.	6.30 p.m.	7.00 p.m.	7.30 p.m.	8.00 p.m.	8.30 p.m.	9.00 p.m.	9.30 p.m.	10.00 p.m.	10.30 p.m.	11.00 p.m.	11.30 p.m.	12.00 a.m.	12.30 a.m.	1.00 a.m.	1.30 a.m.	2.00 a.m.	2.30 a.m.	3.00 a.m.	3.30 a.m.	4.00 a.m.	4.30 a.m.	5.00 a.m.	5.30 a.m.	6.00 a.m.	6.30 a.m.	7.00 a.m.	7.30 a.m.	8.00 a.m.	8.30 a.m.	9.00 a.m.	9.30 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	10.30 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	11.30 a.m.	12.00 p.m.	12.30 p.m.	1.00 p.m.	1.30 p.m.	2.00 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	3.30 p.m.	4.00 p.m
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SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. KADOORIE & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	VALUE.	PAID UP.	RESERVE.	AT WORKING ACCOUNT.	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE RETURN BY DIVIDEND ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
BANKS.								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	120,000	\$125	\$125	\$1,500,000	\$2,005,774	Interim of £2 for first half year @ 2 1/2% 1/97-221-942	5 1/2 %	\$845 sellers London £82.10
National Bank of China, Limited	99,925	£7	£6	\$1,400,000	\$10,223	\$2 (London 3/6) for 1903	...	\$51
MARINE INSURANCES.								
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,500,000	none	\$14 for 1907	7 1/2 %	\$195 sellers
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£15	£5	\$1,500,000	Tls. 160,512	Final of 7/6 making 15/- for 1907	5 1/2 %	Tls. 105
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	14,400	\$250	\$100	\$1,500,000	\$2,506,011	Final of 5/15 making 5/15 for 1906 and Interim of 3/30 for 1907	5 1/2 %	\$82 1/2 sellers
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	12,000	\$100	\$60	\$1,500,000	\$591,763	\$12 and bonus \$3 for 1906	8 1/2 %	\$175 buyers
FIRE INSURANCES.								
Obian Fire Insurance Company, Limited	5,000	\$100	\$10	\$1,500,000	\$372,432	\$6 and bonus \$1 for 1906	7 1/2 %	\$106 sales
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	5,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,500,000	\$428,027	\$27 for 1906	8 %	\$125 sellers
SHIPPING.								
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	10,000	\$25	\$25	\$9,000	\$1,095	\$1 for 1906	...	\$14
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	10,000	\$50	\$50	\$204,533	Nil.	\$2 1/2 for year ending 30.4.1908	7 1/2 %	\$33
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$150,000	\$17,755	\$1 1/2 for first half-year ending 30.6.08	8 1/2 %	\$29 1/2 sellers
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred)	60,000	£5	£5	\$17,000	£13,755	6/- for 1907 on Preference shares only @ ex 1/9 11/10-13. 154	5 1/2 %	\$37
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	200,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 75,000	Tls. 14,510	Interim of Tls. 1 1/2 for account 1908	7 1/2 %	Tls. 47 1/2
"Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited	2,000,000	£1	£1	£1,000,000	£61,817	Final of 1/- making 3/- for 1907 and Interim of 1/- (No. 10) for a/c 1908	6 %	Tls. 51 1/2 buyers
"Star" Ferry Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$5	\$5,000	\$98	\$1.00 for year ending 30.4.1908	4 1/2 %	\$24
Taku Tug and Lighter Company Limited	10,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 42,470	Tls. 6,869	Final of Tls. 2 1/2 making Tls. 5 for 1907	11 %	Tls. 45
REFINERIES.								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	\$100	\$100	\$1,500,000	Dr. \$279,871	\$8 for year ending 31.12.06	...	\$112 1/2 sellers
Luxon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	Dr. \$135,122	3/- for 1897	...	18 sellers
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited	7,000	16.50	Tls. 50	Tls. 1,300,000	Tls. 9,473	Tls. 3 1/2 for year ending 31.8.07	...	Tls. 90 buyers
MINEING.								
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd.	100,000	£1	£1	£17,000	£11,550	Final of 1/6 (coupon No. 11) for year end- ing 29.2.08	7 %	Tls. 17 1/2 buyers
Robt Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited	10,000	£1	£1	£1,000	Dr. £2,191	No. 12 of 1/-=48 cents	...	\$8 1/2
DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.								
Fenwick (Geo.) & Co., Limited	18,000	\$25	\$25	\$53,000	\$3,726	\$1.75 for year ending 31.12.06	...	\$12
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$50	\$50	\$30,000	\$3,556	Final of \$1 1/2 making 5 1/2 for 1907	7 1/2 %	\$45 buyers
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd.	10,000	\$50	\$50	\$200,000	\$38,847	Interim of \$2 for account 1908	8 1/2 %	\$90 sellers
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	55,700	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 1,000,000	Tls. 33,742	Final of Tls. 2 1/2 making 5 1/2 for year ending 30.4.08	6 1/2 %	Tls. 75 buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf Company, Limited	36,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 697,257	Tls. 22,626	Interim of Tls. 4 for account 1908	6 %	Tls. 140
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.								
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.	35,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 35,000	Tls. 6,531	Tls. 6 for 1907	6 %	Tls. 100 1/2
Astor House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai)	30,000	\$25	\$25	\$30,000	Dr. \$4,200	\$1 for year ending 30.6.07	...	\$10 1/2
Central Stores, Limited	50,125	\$25	\$25	\$1,000,000	\$9,178	\$1.80 for 1906	...	\$14 1/2 buyers
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	\$50	\$50	\$600,000	\$14,639	Interim of 3/8 for account 1908	7 %	\$85 buyers
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$100	\$150,000	\$26,915	Interim of 3/8 for account 1908	7 1/2 %	\$92 sellers
Humphreys Estate & Finance Company, Limited	150,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,500,000	\$4,621	7c cents for 1907	7 1/2 %	\$9 1/2 sellers
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	6,000	\$50	\$50	none	\$653	\$1 1/2 for 1907	5 1/2 %	\$33 sellers
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 1,523,045	Tls. 107,547	Interim of Tls. 3 for account 1908	7 %	Tls. 120 sellers
West Point Building Company, Limited	12,500	\$50	\$50	Tls. 170,000	\$1,541	Interim of \$2 for account 1908	9 %	\$46
COTTON MILLS.								
Kwo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd.	15,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 150,000	Tls. 8,320	Tls. 5 for year ending 31.10.1908	6 1/2 %	Tls. 76 buyers
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited	121,000	\$10	\$10	Tls. 45,939	\$9,553	50 cents for year ending 31.7.08	5 %	\$10 sales
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	10,000	Tls. 75	Tls. 75	Tls. 75,000	Tls. 8,372	Tls. 6 for year ending 30.9.06 (8 %)	...	Tls. 67 1/2
Lao-tung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	none	Tls. 6,308	Tls. 8 for 1906	...	Tls. 73 sellers
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 500	Tls. 500	Tls. 28,257	Tls. 50,663	Tls. 50 for 1908	...	Tls. 285 buyers
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,604	12 1/2	12 1/2	£1,500	£648	1/10th per share for 1907=\$1.037	12 %	\$8 buyers
China-Borneo Company, Limited	60,000	\$12	\$12	\$25,000	Nil.	\$1.20 for 1907	11 1/2 %	\$11
China Light and Power Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	none	£1,138	60 cents for year ending 28.2.06	...	\$5 1/2
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd.	125,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,000,000	\$3,592	7c cents for 1907	8 %	\$10 sales
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	25,000	\$7 1/2	\$6	\$8,300	\$48	\$1.50 for year ending 31.7.08	5 1/2 %	\$23 1/2
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	400,000	\$10	\$10	\$12,000	\$5,078	Interim of 40 cents for account 1908	10 %	\$20.92 sellers
H. Price & Company, Limited	12,000	\$10	\$10	\$5,000	\$251	75 cents for 9 months ending 31.12.07	8 %	\$21 buyers
Hall & Holtz, Limited	21,000	\$20	\$20	\$186,000	\$8,957	\$1 for year ending 28.2.08	10 %	\$18 sa. and b.
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$9,321	\$1 and bonus 10 cts. for year ending 29.2.08	6 1/2 %	\$220 sellers
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	\$25	\$25	\$120,000	\$4,578	Interim of \$4 for account 1908	8 1/2 %	\$24
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	80,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$8,191	Interim of \$1 for account 1908	8 %	\$24
Maatsoong (or Mijp), Borch en Landbouw	25,000	Ga. 100	Ga. 100	Tls. 547,500	Tls. 17,127	4th Quarterly div. of Tls. 10 and bonus of Tls. 10 making 50 to date	5 1/2 %	Tls. 860 buyers
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	35,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,000,000	\$7,471	80 cents on fully paid shares and 6 cents on \$1 paid shares for year ending 30.4.08	6 %	\$14
Philippine Company, Limited	75,000	\$10	\$10	none	Nil.	None	4 %	\$8
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited	24,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 100,000	Tls. 6,603	Final of Tls. 4 making Tls. 7 1/2 for 1907	6 1/2 %	Tls. 120 buyers
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 20	Tls. 20	Tls. 24,820	Tls. 8,493	Final of Tls. 6 making in all Tls. 14 for 1907	12 %	Tls. 123 buyers
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	16,850	£20	£20	Tls. 190,000	Tls. 58,322	Final of 37/6 making 5/6 for 1907	...	Tls. 437 1/2
South China Morning Post, Limited	6,000	\$25	\$25	none	Dr. \$56,622	None	...	\$24
Steam Laundry Company, Limited	20,000	\$5	\$5	none	\$251	40 cents for year ending 31.5.08	8 %	\$5
Tientsin Waterworks Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 15,295	Tls. 201	Tls. 6 1/2 for year ending 30.4.07	5 %	Tls. 94 buyers
Union Waterboat Company, Limited	50,000	\$10	\$10	Tls. 4,000	Tls. 301	50 cents for 1907	5 %	\$10
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	\$55,000	\$1,360	80 cents on 9,000 ord. shares and 1.50 on 100 Form. shares for yr. end. 31.5.07	6 1/2 %	\$13 buyers
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited	90,000	\$10	\$10	\$300,000	\$6,488	Interim of 30 cents a/c 1908	6 1/2 %	\$9 1/2 buyers
William Powell, Limited	15,000	\$7	\$7	none	\$395	Final of 30 cts. making 80 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906	...	\$4

* These shares are entitled to half of the profits

DIVIDENDS PAYABLE:—

Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.

Tls. 2 1/2 4th January, '09

Auctions.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE.
 Sale of the right of anchorage and maintaining a Temporary Pier over Crown Fore-shore at end of First Street, Yau-mai, to be held at the Office of the Public Works Department by order of His Excellency the Governor, on MONDAY, the 4th day of January, 1909, at 3 P.M., for a term of 1 year commencing from the 4th day of January, 1909.

PARTICULARS OF THE PIER.

No. of Sale.	Position.	Maximum Dimensions.	Upset price.
1	At end of First Street, Yau-mai, Kowloon.	250' x 8'	\$500.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1908. [1129]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by
PUBLIC AUCTION,
 FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED,
 on
TUESDAY,
 the 5th January, 1909, at 2.30 P.M., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, corner of Ice House Street,

SUNDRY VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
 Comprising:—
 SILK TAPESTRY COVERED DRAWING ROOM SUITE, TEAKWOOD WARDROBES with BEVELLED GLASS, MARBLE-TOP WASHSTANDS, DINNER WAGGONS, Single and Double IRON BEDSTEPS and BEDDING, CROCKERY, GLASS and E.P. WARE, CARPETS, RUGS, PICTURES, CANTON CARVED BLACKWOOD WARE, COOKING STOVE and UTENSILS, &c., &c.

Also
 One COTTAGE PIANO by The Robinson Piano Co.
 Catalogues will be issued.
 TERMS:—As usual.
HUGHES & HOUGH,
 Auctioneers.
 Hongkong, 30th December, 1908. [1124]

Intimations.

Telephone: 482.
 Telegrams: "Cyclometer."

CONTINENTAL

HOME RATES.

IMPORT AGENTS

Motor Cars,

Cycles,
 Launches,
 Automobiles.

DRAGON CYCLE DEPOT,

HEAD OFFICE and SHOW

ROOMS,

33-35, Des Vaux Road, Central,
 Hongkong.

THERAPION MAY NOW ALSO BE OBTAINED

IN DRAGON (TASTELESS) FORM.

A BROKEN-DOWN SYSTEM.

This is a condition (or disease) to which doctors give many names, but which few of them really understand. It is simply weakness—a broken-down system. No matter what may be its cause (for they are almost numberless), the symptoms are much the same: the more prominent being sleeplessness, some of prostration or weariness, depression of spirits and want of energy for the ordinary affairs of life. Now, what also is absolute essential in all such cases is increased vitality.

VITAL STRENGTH & ENERGY.

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY

THERAPION NO. 3

then by any other known combination. So surely as it is taken in accordance with the printed directions accompanying it, it will the shattered health be restored.

THE EXPIRING LAMP OF LIFE

LIT UP A FRESH.

A new existence imparted in place of what had so lately seemed worn-out, "used up," and exhausted. This wonderful medicine is a purely vegetable and innocent, is agreeable to the taste, suitable for all constitutions and conditions, in either sex, and it is difficult to imagine a case of disease or derangement, whose main features are those of debility, which will not be speedily and permanently remedied by this never-failing recuperative remedy, which is destined to cast into oblivion everything that had seemed to be for this wide-spread and numerous class of human ailments.

THERAPION

is sold by Chemists throughout the world. Price for the principal quantity, 25 per packet. Purchasers should note that the word "THERAPION" is prominent on the label. Beware of cheap imitations. Beware of cheap imitations. Beware of cheap imitations.

Prepared by Dr. J. M. CHAUN, THE LATEST METHOD.

AMERICAN SYSTEM OF DENTISTRY.

11, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

From the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909.

Intimations.

DON'T BUY

ELSEWHERE BEFORE YOU CALL AT

FRENCH STORE

(Opposite ASTOR HOUSE)

NOW SHOWING

A Large and Fancy Assortment of

The Best FRENCH TOYS, DOLLS,

TOM SMITH'S CRACKERS,

CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE,

PERNOT BISCUITS,

&c., &c., &c.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1908. [40]

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

(CAPITAL PAID UP\$1,250,000)

Loans on Mortgage of House Property, &c.

Goods received on Storage.

Advances made on Merchandise.

Loans made on the Provident System.

(Rates and Particulars on application.)

THE OFFICE OF

TRUSTEE, EXECUTOR OF WILLS,

ATTORNEY, &c., &c.,

Undertaken and Executed.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 19th March, 1908. [14]

F. BLACKHEAD & Co.,

SHIP-CHANDLERS, SAILMAKERS,

COAL AND PROVISION MERCHANTS,

NAVAL CONTRACTORS

AND GENERAL COMMISSION

AGENTS,

GROUND FLOOR,

ST. GEORGE'S BUILDING,

HONGKONG.

SOAP AND SODA MANUFACTURERS.

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HARTMANN'S RAHTJEN'S GENUINE

COMPOSITION RED HAND

BRAND, HARTMANN'S GREY PAINT

DAILER'S PATENT MOTOR

LAUNCHES,

&c., &c., &c.

The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

(ESTABLISHED 1881.)

NEW SERIES No. 5906

號一十月二十年四十三緒光

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1909

大拜禮

號二月正英港香

\$13 PER ANNUM
SINGLE COPY, 25 Cts.

NOTICE

All communications intended for publication in "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" should be addressed to The Editor, 1, Ice House Road, and should be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address.

Ordinary business communications should be addressed to The Manager.
The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any delayed M.S. nor to return any Contributions.

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BIRTHS.

On December 20, 1908, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM ORTWIN, a son.

On December 23, 1908, at Shanghai, the wife of RICHARD FOLLAKE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On December 18, 1908, at Shanghai, ERNEST ROCHFORT, 3rd son of Sir William Rochfort and Lady Hooper, of London, to GLADYS MAUD, 2nd daughter of Capt. and Mrs. F. H. Wallace, of Shanghai.

On December 22nd, 1908, at Shanghai, by the Rev. Father Le Gall, S.J., JUDITH youngest daughter of the late Richard Markwick, Chief Assistant I. M. Customs, to MARCOS DE SOUSA.

On December 23, 1908, at Shanghai, JAMES HAY ARNOTT, to ELIZA ESKINER FORSTER, 2nd daughter of William Forsterfield, contractor, Glasgow.

DEATHS.

On December 18, 1908, at Tientsin, MAX HOMANN, manager of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, Tientsin.

On December 20, 1908, at Shanghai, RICHARD FRANCIS HASTINGS, aged 48 years.
On December 22nd, 1908, at Shanghai, ALEXANDER MACLEAN, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, aged 75 years.

The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1909

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

(26th December.)

As the date for the meeting of the opium conference, originally fixed for the 21st January but since postponed a month later, at Shanghai, approaches, interest is aroused in the forthcoming deliberations of the delegates of the Foreign Powers concerned in the suppression of the opium trade in China. From Shanghai we learn that a report is current regarding the appointment of Prince Kung as head of the Chinese Commissioners to the International Opium Conference. The *North China Daily News* hopes that this report will be confirmed in due course. In his last letter the Peking correspondent of our Shanghai contemporary reflecting without doubt the opinion held in diplomatic circles in the Capital, drew attention to the fact that the personnel of China's present nominees to the Conference was disappointing. As the reason for this criticism the correspondent adduced the relatively inferior positions in the official hierarchy occupied by the three delegates. No reflection was made upon the intellectual qualifications of the representatives, which, as a correspondent has rightly pointed out, are beyond question. But in view of the importance attaching in China to outward ceremonial, the Shanghai journal comments editorially that it was obvious that the cause of opium reform stood to suffer in the eyes of the Chinese public, if the Government considered the International Conference of not sufficient moment to require the attendance of a highly-placed official. It is not too late to rectify the mistake into which the Chinese authorities might have fallen. Prince Kung, it will be remembered, was appointed High Commissioner for the Suppression of Opium last April, and his presence at the Conference would not only be a courteous recognition on the part of the Government of the assistance in the matter of opium suppression proffered by foreign Powers, but would also convince the country of the importance attached by the Peking authorities to the crusade against the drug.

PHILIPPINE SUGAR.

(18th December.)

Much space is given at the moment by Manila exchanges to the question of Philippine sugar. It is suggested from Washington that while no change in the duties on sugar is to be expected, there may be an agreement to admit free from the Philippines a strictly limited quantity of raw sugar. There would seem no reason why America should not admit free whatever the Philippines can produce. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle* during the last fiscal year American imports of sugar of all kinds were 4,391,339,975 pounds, or 2,195,900 tons. The domestic product in addition in the same year was but 656,627 tons. Both the American imports and production are steadily increasing year by year, as is also the per capita consumption and the population. If all the sugar which the Philippines can produce were admitted free and all shipped to the United States the only effect it would have upon anybody would be the loosening of the grip of the sugar trust on the sugar market. In the opinion of our contemporary on the Pacific coast, it is not likely that it would do that for a long time, for the trust would soon manage to extend its tentacles to envelop the Philippine product. It would doubtless make the trust some bother, but as between the sugar trust and the Filipinos public sentiment would certainly be with the Filipinos. So long as America imports from somewhere such enormous quantities of sugar, there is no reason which will satisfy any impartial man why the United States should not get some of it from the Philippines. The territory adapted to sugar culture in the Philippines is by no means unlimited. With every encouragement which free access to the home market could give it would be impossible for Philippine sugar to impair the profits of any domestic producer. And the importation of Philippine products is essential to the development of any commerce between the islands and America which would in any way compensate the U.S. people for the cost of their administration.

PLAGUE RATS IN SHANGHAI.

(19th December.)

Last week our Shanghai correspondent cabled the discovery by the ever vigilant Health Department of plague-infected rats in Shanghai. Referring to the threatened invasion of the plague virus in the Settlement, the *Mercury* writes editorially:—We have so long escaped while our friends have suffered that it has almost seemed as if there were some peculiarity in our position to safeguard us. Either our soil was unsuitable to the germ which thrives so well elsewhere, or there was too much moisture mixed with it, or one thing or another. Nobody expected that we should be able by regulation to keep the danger at arm's length. And now it would seem we have it in our midst. Rats are dying of plague in the neighbourhood of the wharves whence undoubtedly they have been imported. Imported rats, and one human case up river, appear to have been contracted in Shanghai. That is roughly all that

the Municipal minutes tell us, except that means are to be taken at once to secure the destruction of all the rats that can be laid hold of. We need hardly say that the Council in this matter deserves, and will have, all the support and assistance which reasonable people in the community can give. Whatever may be required in the matter of combined action should be at once forthcoming, and it must be remembered that combination in pursuit of so wily a foe as the rat is absolutely necessary if complete success is to be achieved. It would be quite useless, for example, for one property to be cleared if the surrounding properties were permitted to allow their premises to continue to serve as breeding centres. As we have said, reasonable people will see the necessity for combined action. The unreasonable should be coerced, and that this may be possible the Council of the various powers should let their nationals know that whatever measures may be considered necessary by the Health Department will be strictly enforced. For the moment there is no need for alarm. But there is need for action so that alarm may be prevented and the threatened danger thrust aside.

THE DYING YEAR.

(31st December.)

We close the year to-day with prospects no better than at the beginning of 1908. While it is no pleasant duty to become pessimistic, there appears to be no ray of hope in the commercial horizon that the immediate future will bring better times and greater prosperity to residents in the Colony. As a matter of fact, were one to take a calm view of the outlook, the conclusion must be forced upon one that we enter upon the new year with anything but brilliant prospects. So far as 1908 is concerned, no events of a momentous character have to be chronicled in the history of the Colony for the past twelve months. We have maintained our relations with our immediate neighbours in terms of perfect amity. At Canton, Viceroy Chang Jen-chun still controls the destiny of affairs in the Two Kwang Provinces; the only change that was made in the personnel of his foreign staff is our old friend Taotai Wen, who has been promoted Junior Amban at Lhasa. The *Tatsu Maru* incident, with its subsequent developments, and the effective boycott in Hongkong by the Cantonese of Japanese manufactures and shipping, have formed the subject of an exchange of communications with the Viceroyalty in Canton, but at no time were Hongkong representations received with anything but the most friendly spirit by the Viceroy. On the retirement of Consul-General Mansfield, Mr. H. H. Fox succeeded him as H.B.M.'s representative at the Southern Provincial Capital. It fell to the lot of Mr. Fox to combat the obstructive regulations promulgated at Canton and Swatow with a view of restricting the Hongkong raw opium trade. Mr. Fox's sympathetic attitude towards the British merchants secured all that was desired in the interests of this Colony. The death of a Chinese passenger on board the *Fatshan* en route to Canton has been made the subject of some irritation by the meddlesome interference of the Self-Government Association of Canton. The Consular inquiry exonerated the watchman on board the steamer from all blame in connection with the death of the Chinaman, but the matter awaits further investigation at the Portuguese Consulate-General in Canton. The completion of the fast river cruisers by the local shipyards brought about the more effective patrol of the riverine districts, but much yet remains to be effected before piracy can be wholly exterminated within the delta. Armed robberies and brigandage have been as free as ever, to the detriment of inland trade. A more efficient Police system in Canton and surrounding districts would reduce the lawlessness prevailing in the Southern province. Our relations with the Portuguese Colony of Macao remain as cordial as ever. Governor Roçadas has succeeded Governor Coutinho in the Portuguese settlement, and, but for the seizure of the *Tatsu Maru* within the territorial waters of Macao, there is no outstanding incident to be chronicled in connection with the neighbouring Colony. In Hongkong itself, the opium question has been the all-absorbing topic of the year. The peremptory orders of the Secretary of State to close the opium divans, which threatened the partial extinction of a large portion of the Colonial revenue, have, thanks to the representations of the Governor, been held in abeyance. Considerable research has been made into the opium problem with a view of placing the British delegates to the forthcoming Shanghai Conference with the latest available data. The nomination of Mr. Cecil Clement as the Colony's representative to the forthcoming Conference has been received with general satisfaction. At the end of July, the Colony was visited by a typhoon of unusual severity, dealing considerable destruction to property both ashore and afloat. The floods on the West River in the summer evoked considerable sympathy from residents, both European and Chinese, and had the effect of temporarily disorganising the course of trade. In November, the anti-Japanese boycott culminated in rioting in the western and central districts of the city, with the subsequent proclamation of the Peace Preservation Ordinance and the banishment at a later date of some eight Chinese merchants and publicists. This latter Government measure called forth protests from the Chinese, as a result of which representations were addressed to Government by the China Association and the Chamber of Commerce for trade might be

disorganised by the apprehensions of the Chinese that further banishment orders were contemplated against certain members of their community. The enforcement of the Peace Preservation Ordinance was cancelled this week. With the exception of the Public Health Amending Bill, no important enactment was passed by the Legislature. The amendment to the Magistrates' Ordinance making expectorating in public places a punishable misdemeanour, has formed the subject of some irritation, and at a meeting of the Chinese Commercial Association the other day, it was resolved to present a memorial to the Colonial Office protesting against the new legislation. The finances of the Colony are in no better condition than it was last year. A tax on shipping has had to be imposed to defray the cost of the typhoon shelter at Mong-kok-tai, and it is on the topic that fresh taxation will be considered in connection with the Estimates for 1910, when, probably, the deficiency in the opium revenue will have to be made good. No charges, excepting those of a provisional character, have been made in the constitution of the Legislative Council. During the absence on home leave of the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewitt, Mr. Murray Stewart acted as his *locum tenens* with the ability which has distinguished him as a foremost citizen-advocate in advancing the cause and interests of the Colony. Mr. Slade continues to hold his seat in place of Mr. E. Osborne. A departmental reorganisation committee has been appointed in order to consider and report upon means for effecting savings in the expenditure of the Colony. In the matter of education, Sir Frederick Lugard has taken up in real earnest a project for the establishment of a university for Hongkong. The details of the scheme have not yet been announced, and they are so far advanced that we believe before long the public will be in possession of the facts relating to the Governor's proposed institution. The Kowloon-Canton Railway is making as good progress as can be expected, with the engineering difficulties that have been met with in the boring of the tunnel and the construction of bridges. In naval affairs, Sir Arthur Moore on retirement was succeeded by the Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton as Commander-in-Chief on the China Station. The defences of the Colony remain under the vigilant eyes of H.B. Major-General Broadwood. The British regiment in garrison (3rd Middlesex), upon their departure, was replaced by The Buffs, who arrived in the Colony last month. Elsewhere, a review of the trade during 1908 is presented, with considerable detail, and passing over the minor incidents and events which have already been chronicled in our columns in the course of the year, we close a brief retrospect with the time-honoured wish to all our readers of—

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

MAGAZINE EXPLOSION.

300 HOUSES DESTROYED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 24th December.

The gunpowder depot at Chihhai exploded on the 21st inst. The noise was heard within a radius of more than ten *lis* (about four miles); the people became greatly alarmed.

Shanghai, 25th December.

The other day an explosion occurred in the gunpowder magazine in the district of Chihhai, Ningpo prefecture.

About 300 houses were destroyed; there were only a few casualties.

PEKING-KALGAN RAILWAY.

FORESTALLING FOREIGN CONCESSION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 24th December.

The Ministry of Posts and Communications has decided to build a branch line of the Peking-Kalgan railway leading to Chingwantao, to forestall application by foreigners for a concession to construct the road.

Later.

Certain foreign merchants have repeatedly asked for the concession to build a railway from Chingwantao to Ku-yung-kwan. The Waiwupu has refused the application.

FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

MUST NOT RESIDE OUTSIDE TREATY LIMITS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 24th December.

The Waiwupu has urged the Foreign Ministers to instruct their res-

spective nationals to take up their residence (while in China) within Treaty limits only or in foreign settlements; they should not be allowed to live outside such settlements in Chinese territory.

It is desirable that subjects of foreign Powers should comply with Treaty stipulations in this respect.

SHOWING THE FLAG.

ANOTHER SOUTHERN CRUISE CONTEMPLATED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 24th December.

H.E. Tseh Liang, president of the Ministry of War, proposes to despatch Yung Shi-kee, next spring, with a squadron of cruisers to the South Sea Islands on a tour of inspection and "to show the colours" to Chinese residing in those regions. It is expected, furthermore, that the officers will gain experience in navigation by the cruise.

The Central Government has sanctioned the proposal.

DUKE TSAI SUN.

TO STUDY FOREIGN NAVIES.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 24th December.

The Grand Councillors have made a recommendation that Duke Tsai Sun should be sent abroad on a special mission next spring to study the various naval systems obtaining in foreign countries.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

LOAN IN ABEYANCE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 25th December.

H.E. Chang Chih-tung (as already reported) contemplated the raising of a loan (with the British and Chinese Corporation) for the construction of the Hunan-Hupeh section of the Canton-Hankow Railway.

In consequence, however, of certain difficulties having arisen in the matter of the provision of sufficient securities for the loan, the flotation is held in abeyance.

MONGOL PRINCES.

DEPARTURE FROM PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 25th December.

The Minister of the Interior, seeing that the stay of the Mongol Princes in the Capital is unduly prolonged, have urged them to return to their respective territories.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

EARLY INSTITUTION DESIRABLE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 25th December.

The Prince Regent proposes to shorten the period for the institution of constitutional government.

With that object in view he has consulted a certain Grand Councillor who suggested that Government might wait another year to ascertain the preparedness or otherwise of the Provincial administrations before deciding upon the inauguration of a Parliament.

EHO PARK.

A WISE REGENT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 25th December.

The Prince Regent has decided to do away with the expenditure for the maintenance of the Eho Park, and intends to appropriate the funds thus saved towards the reorganization of the Army.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

DIFFICULTIES OF LOAN SECURITY REMOVED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 27th December.

H.E. Yuan Shih-kai has removed the difficulties in respect of security

which beset the raising of the loan (with the British and Chinese Corporation) for the construction of the Hunan-Hupeh section of the Canton-Hankow Railway.

KWANGSI DEFENCE.

APPROPRIATIONS IN AID.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 27th December.

The Governor of Kwangsi has asked for authority to retain the instalment of the Boxer indemnity as appropriation in aid of local defence purposes.

The Board of Revenue has refused to grant the request.

PRINCE CHING'S SON.

HIGH APPOINTMENT PROPOSED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 27th December.

Grand Councillors Yuan Shih-kai and Chang Chih-tung have recommended that Prince Ching's son, Tsai Chun, should receive a high appointment.

The Prince Regent has acquiesced in the suggestion.

No objections have been raised to the proposal by Prince Ching himself.

THE DALAI LAMA.

DEPARTURE FROM PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 27th December.

On the eve of his departure the Dalai Lama was in receipt of presents from the Foreign Diplomatic Corps. The Russian Minister made him a present of 20,000 (? taels).

Later.

Many statesmen saw the Buddhist Pontiff off; amongst others was the president of the Ministry of the Interior, according to whom the Dalai Lama did not wear a very pleasing countenance upon taking his departure.

CHIH-LI.

RETRENCHMENT IN ADMINISTRATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 28th December.

H.E. Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Viceroy Yeung Hsi-chang, to try and dispense with all supernumerary officials in his province and to cut down the expenditure in respect of personal emoluments.

Upon hearing the report the expectant officials in the province have evinced much uneasiness.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 28th December.

The Central Government has appointed Leung Tung-in, Vice-president of the Waiwupu, as special commissioner to negotiate with Russia on the boundary question.

PEKING.

PROPOSED MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 28th December.

The Prince Regent has given directions for the establishment of a Municipal Council in Peking, the members of which will be nominated by the various provinces.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

ALLEGED INCOMPETENT COMMISSIONERS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 28th December.

The Prince Regent is of opinion that Yu Sik-mai and Wang Tsch (ex-minister to the Court at St. James's) do not possess sufficient competency to discharge their duties as special commissioners to inquire into the subject of Constitutional Government.

The Regent contemplates their recall and proposes to send other high officials to replace them.

Prince Ching succeeded in dissuading the Prince Regent from putting into effect his proposal; the question remains in abeyance.

THE WAIWUPU.

A BUSY DEPARTMENT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 20th December.

The Waiwupu has eighty-four cases of great importance with Foreign Powers still pending and awaiting settlement.

The Prince Regent has urged Yuan Shih-kai to settle them as soon as possible.

NAVAL REORGANISATION.

AMERICAN SUGGESTION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 29th December.

The United States Minister in Peking has strongly recommended the Central Government to arrive at an early decision in respect of the naval reorganisation scheme.

Mr. Rockhill suggests that the construction of naval bases and the building of warships may be taken in hand by degree.

ARMY ESTIMATES.

SIXTY MILLION TAELS ANNUALLY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 29th December.

The Ministry of War estimates the cost of the Army at sixty million taels annually.

It is proposed that this expenditure be defrayed by the various Provinces.

PRISON SYSTEM.

REFORMS TO BE INTRODUCED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 29th December.

It is proposed by the Central Government to issue instructions to the Viceroy and Governors of various Provinces to send subordinate officials abroad to study the prison system obtaining in foreign countries, with a view of, in time, introducing reforms in the system in China.

MISSING TROUSERS.

'HOUSE' BOY'S' NEW WAY OF DETAINING A MAN.

A novel way to detain a prisoner was described to Mr. J. R. Wood, in the Police Court, last Thursday, by a house "boy." Wong Shing Kin, the "boy," employed by Mr. Shenton, a solicitor, and Pan Shing, a servant, unemployed, were jointly charged with stealing five pairs of trousers, valued at \$100, the property of Mr. Shenton and Mr. Beckwith, both of whom reside at 4, Morrison Hill.

The evidence for the prosecution was, in effect, that the trousers were stolen about ten days ago, but that they were not discovered until last night, when the first defendant handed Mr. Shenton three pawntickets "to redeem his property."

Pan Shing (the second defendant) gave important testimony. He said that a few days ago he met the first defendant in the street. The latter gave him a pair of trousers and asked him to pawn them. He went away and pledged them for a dollar and a half, which he gave, in full, to the first man with the ticket.

The Court—When you were pawning the trousers, did the pawnbroker ask you from where you got them?—No.

Did he ask you your name?—No. The pawnbroker could say he recognised the witness, but stated that his practice was to get the names of every person pledging property in the case of European goods more care was taken to discover whether the person pawning the goods had the owner's consent.

The Court—I have a suspicion that many pawnbrokers do not ask for any names. Inspector Smith said that it was their custom to get names.

The first defendant denied that he gave the "house" boy the trousers to pawn. He met him in the street and asked him for the pawntickets, as he knew his master had got some things. The second defendant handed him the tickets, and witness took him to a commission shop on the Pany and telephoned to his master, reporting the loss. The witness answered the telephone, and, after hearing his story, went to the shop, where he found the first defendant, but as no one came, and fearing that the second defendant would get away, he told the first defendant to "take him home" and buy him "chow." This was done, and it was there that the arrest came.

A statement made by prisoner at the station caused the first defendant's arrest. He stated that the police searched the pawntickets and found the four other pairs of trousers.

The Court was inclined to believe that the first defendant was not guilty and adjourned his case for further evidence. The second defendant pleaded guilty then to stealing only one pair.

Owing to the report that the Netherlands Government had decided to withdraw Chinese residing in the Dutch Colonies to naturalise themselves as Dutch subjects, members of the Peking Government have written to leading Chinese in the Netherlands, requesting them to remain in the Dutch Colonies, and to advise the Dutch Government in this Dutch Colonies will be made and loyal to China in the establishment of a number of schools there for the education of Chinese children in the Dutch Colonies.

A Dutch dispatch to Japanese papers has announced that the Dutch Government has issued an announcement to the effect that the issue of cotton yarn price-dictates will be discontinued.

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KIDNAPED FROM HOME.

EXCITING NARRATIVE OF TWO BOYS.

A rather exciting story was told by a thirteen-year-old boy in the Police Court, to-day, when a woman, by name Chan Kiu, appeared before Mr. J. H. Kemp to answer charges of kidnapping two boys from Hongkong on the 2nd instant and selling them outside the Colony. One of the boys—the elder one—escaped from his imprisonment and came back to Hongkong, recognising his alleged kidnapper in the street. The other remained in the hands of the kidnapper, after exchanging some hardships while waiting for his purchaser.

The story as told by the boy (Ip Ngan Chai) was to the effect that prior to the day he was lured from his home he lived with his father—a coolie employed in the Yau Yau Yard. On the 2nd December, he and his brother, who was named "Wong," were walking after having breakfast, when they were lured to the Chinese Recreation Ground, in Hollywood Road, where they "watched" "Wong." There they met the defendant, who spoke to them and asked them if they wanted work. The boys answered together that they did. They accompanied the woman to a house in Third Street, where they were locked in a room with three other boys, and ordered not to try to leave the room. After breakfast on the following morning, the two brothers were taken on board a steam launch bound for Sam-chun, where they were put up in the Shiu Fung Cheung boarding-house, and on the next morning they were taken to the Tappi Lap Pak Foo village, near the San-On district. There they were handed over to a person named "Wong," who sent them out to work on the hillside. "I completed," said Ip Ngan Chai, "that the work of chopping trees was too hard and I later his 'elder brother' disappeared, and long after that he met a man on the hillside while cutting grass and having told his story was brought back to his father."

Chan Kiu (the defendant) said that she lived in 53, Third Street, with another woman. On the 2nd December while she and the other woman were on their way to the "Shau-kin" Theatre, Ip Po (her companion) told her that there were two boys who wanted to be adopted. She agreed with the idea, and about eleven o'clock she and a maid brought the two boys to her house. When they arrived she was washing clothes in the kitchen, but she heard a whispering going on between the man and Ip Po. After putting the clothes out to dry she entered and discovered to her surprise that the man who brought the boys to the house was not other than "her father." She then addressed the elder boy, asking him his name and father's name. He said, "Ip Ngan Chai," but he had a sister, who had been sold by his mother as a slave. She asked him further where was his native place, and he replied, "Sam-chun." She interrogated why a big boy like him wanted to be adopted. He said that he wanted to work on his father's house at Sam-chun, and he had been lured by the man who brought him to the house. She then asked him to go with her to the police station, and he refused. She then asked him to go with her to the police station, and he refused.

At the 17th instant, a number of robbers attacked a man named Tam, in Sai-chui, who was returning home from work. He was severely injured, and his property was stolen. The robbers were seen to flee in the direction of the hillside.

On the 21st instant, at 10 p.m., another railway accident occurred near the Three-Eye Bridge, where a lad of about 16 years of age was knocked down by a passing train returning to Shek Wai Tsang from Eastham. The right leg of the unfortunate lad was cut through, and there is scarcely any hope for his recovery.

H.E. MAJOR-GENERAL BROADWOOD. General Broadwood paid a visit to the Canton High Provincial College, where he was received by the masters of the college. The General afterwards inspected the classes.

H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen-Chun proceeded to the Sham-tse to return and call on General Broadwood at the British Consulate at 11 a.m. this morning.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE'S DEPARTURE. The successful candidate for entrance into the newly-established Customs College at Peking will leave here to-morrow on the day after by the steamer Kwong-ke for the North.

THE "FATSHAN" INCIDENT. With reference to the attempt of the members of the Self-Government Society to boycott the steamer *Fatshan*, the Viceroy has been asked to suppress the action and to deal with the ringleaders.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY. The Canton-Hankow Railway Company has received a telegram from the shareholders of the Company at Shanghai to the effect that they will send a representative to Canton to audit the accounts of the Company. The Company has been requested to get the account books ready to be examined.

THE "FATSHAN" INCIDENT. A circular issued by the Canton Self-Government Society convening a general meeting for the 25th instant in connection with the *Fatshan* incident reads as follows: "With reference to the case of the *Fatshan*, Viceroy H. E. Chang has communicated with the Portuguese Consul to open negotiations for the settlement of the case. The Viceroy loves our people as his own sons, and the result of the negotiations will no doubt be satisfactory. The steamer *Fatshan* is a British vessel, and the British Consul at Canton has therefore very reason to be responsible for the case. Nothing but justice we are now fighting for. Our Chinese have not the jurisdiction over foreign vessels in China. At present, prior to the conclusion of the matter, we should remain quiet and await the result of the inquiry to be held, but in the meantime, no agitation should be entertained." On the 25th instant, the meeting was held and there was a large gathering. Nothing definite was passed at the meeting, with the exception of some of the members of the society who made speeches on the matter referred to.

GLAN FIGHT. On the 21st instant, a clan fight of a very serious nature took place in the village of Pak Tung in the district of San between the people of the clan "Wong" and "Ma." The fight lasted for several days, and a number of lives were lost on both sides, besides a few hundreds of houses in the village being destroyed by fire. The fight is not yet been settled. The result of the fight is not known.

OUTRAGED SUGAR SELLING. On the morning of the 23rd instant, on the arrival of the steamer *Kiangling* from Macao, a passenger was arrested while in possession of a quantity of sugar, and was taken to the police station for further examination.

OBSTINATE MONEY UNDER TALES. A man named Chan Shiu Chiu was seized by the police on the 21st instant, while he was carrying a large quantity of money under his clothes. He was taken to the police station for further examination.

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CANTON DAY BY DAY.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Canton, 24th December.

Yesterday, a general meeting was held by the Canton-Hankow Railway Company at which there were present some two hundred shareholders. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Kemp, and was held in the afternoon.

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CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The total amount this year to be paid to the members of the staff of the Canton-Hankow Railway is \$1,000,000.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Canton, 24th December.

On the 8th August last, the steamer *Tai On* was on her way to Kowloon from Hongkong, and collided with a junk belonging to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Trading Company, which was on her way to Kowloon from Hongkong.

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AM IMPORTERS' YARN.

Chui Shai Ying, who has been exceedingly ingenious in obtaining money under false pretences from various persons, has now been sentenced by the Municipal Magistrate to one year's imprisonment in the reformatory.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Canton, 24th December.

Chui Shai Ying, who has been exceedingly ingenious in obtaining money under false pretences from various persons, has now been sentenced by the Municipal Magistrate to one year's imprisonment in the reformatory.

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Morphia Regulations.

PROHIBITION OF IMPORTATION AND MANUFACTURE.

HEAVY PENALTY FOR INFRINGEMENT.

Regulations made by His Majesty's Minister in Peking, which are declared to be urgent, relating to the prohibition of the importation and manufacture of morphia, are published in the *Gazette*.

It is ordered that, on and after January 1st, 1909, any British subject importing into China morphia or instruments for the injection of morphia, except in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article XI of the Treaty of September 5th, 1902, for the importation of morphia, or any British subject manufacturing in China morphia or instruments for the injection of morphia, shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding £50, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months, or to both such punishments, and the instruments for the injection of morphia may be declared to be forfeited.

CUSTOMS NOTIFICATION.

On and after the 1st January, 1909, the manufacture in China by Chinese and foreigners of morphia, and of syringes, needles, and such instruments for its use, is absolutely prohibited, and the importation of the same into China by Chinese and foreigners is likewise prohibited, except in the case of duly qualified foreign medical practitioners and foreign chemists and druggists complying with the following conditions:

1. Duly qualified foreign medical practitioners to import morphia and/or instruments for its use must sign a bond before their Consul stating the quantities to be imported and the method of importation, whether by steamer (the name of which must be given), rail, or post, and guaranteeing that these articles will be employed for medicinal purposes only, either in their private practice or in some specified hospital. Upon the Consul forwarding the bond to the Customs House a special landing permit will be issued after payment of duty.

2. Foreign chemists and druggists desiring to import morphia and/or instruments for its use must sign a bond before the Consul stating the quantities to be imported and their value, the place whence arriving and the method of importation, whether by steamer (the name of which must be given), rail, or post, and guaranteeing that these articles will be used exclusively in the compounding of prescriptions or sold in small quantities only on the requisition of a duly qualified foreign medical practitioner. Upon the Consul forwarding the bond to the Customs House a special landing permit will be issued after payment of duty.

3. Any such importer of morphia and/or instruments for its use found dealing with or selling—such, otherwise than in accordance with the terms of his bond, will not be permitted to make any further importation.

4. All morphia and/or instruments for its use landed without Customs special permit will be confiscated.

5. Duty on morphia and instruments for its use imported under the above provisions will be levied at the reduced rate of 5 per cent. ad valorem.

6. Morphia and/or instruments for its use shipped to China by foreign merchants from foreign ports before 1st January, 1909, may be landed under the old regulations during a period after that date, the limit of which will be fixed in every instance by the Customs House concerned according to the date of shipment and the distance of the port whence shipped. Any morphia so landed under the old rules must pay duty at the present tariff without reduction.

The necessary blank bond forms will be issued by the Customs on application free of charge.

By Order received through the Inspector General of Customs,

A. H. HARRIS,
Commissioner of Customs.

CUSTOM HOUSE,
Kowloon, 16th December, 1908.

BLAZING OIL SHIP.

BOMBARDED BY A FORT.

A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE.

We are now in a position to furnish our readers with full and accurate details of the destruction of the British oil steamer *Kaloma*, Captain Jackson, which called at Singapore from New York en route for Cebu and Swatow with 5,000 cases and 3,000 drums of kerosene, reports the *Singapore Free Press* of 18th ult.

The vessel had originally also a quantity of shells and fireworks on board, but these had been, fortunately, landed at the gunpowder magazine at Tanjong Pagar before the vessel moved to the danger zone. When a representative of McAlister and Company left the ship at 5.15 p.m. on Wednesday all was well, but at 5.15 fifteen minutes later smoke was discovered issuing from the reserve hold, just abaft the bridge. Oil was stored here and it was seen that fire had broken out, though how it started is not known.

The HATCHES WERE BATTENED down and the officers and crew did everything in their power to combat the flames. They were powerless, however, and signals for assistance were flown. A dark smoke on rockets were fired to attract attention. The gunners at Blakang Mati telephoned to the Master Attendant's office, and the agents and Tanjong Pagar were communicated with. The salvage steamer *Varuna* steamed out immediately and poured water into the ship. As it was feared that the oil tanks at Pulau Bukom would be endangered, the burning vessel was towed to Pasir Panjang, and anchored about three-quarters of a mile off the hospital.

The sea cocks were opened in the engine room and one of the holds with a view to venting the vessel. Until 12.30 yesterday morning, the salvage steamer remained alongside pumping in water. The fire gained rapidly, however, and, although explosions occurred, the fire had not yet reached hold number two, where most of the oil was stored, and it was momentarily feared that a severe explosion would occur here. It was not considered safe to remain alongside any longer, and the *Varuna* came and returned to Tanjong Pagar.

One of the harbour launches, the *Malay*, having been on board, remained in the vicinity of the whole night. The officers and crew were taken on to launches, and the men succeeded in removing most of their belongings. The crew were:

TAKEN TO THE SAILORS' HOME, at two in the morning. The Captain and the Chief and Third Officers remained in the police launch. The ship's carpenter, a Russian Finn, seemed to become crazy with the excitement. He jumped off the launch and swam to the burning ship, boarded her, put all his belongings and a large quantity of provisions in a

boat and cruised about in the vicinity, eventually making fast to a fishing-stake close by.

When morning dawned, the fire appeared to have subsided and less smoke was seen. The *Varuna* was sent for to pump a hole in the ship's side and sink her, as she still remained afloat.

Mr. F. W. Webb, Lloyd's Surveyor, and Captain Jackson, were in charge of the operations. Just before the arrival of the *Varuna*, about ten o'clock.

A BIG EXPLOSION.

Shook the vessel from stem to stern, and flames poured from the ventilators in front of the engine room. A visit paid to the ship just before the explosion was full of interest. The ship was absolutely deserted, but in the officers' saloon, the table was still as it had been laid for dinner. Three canaries and some other personal belongings were taken away. An attempt was made to rescue three sheep which were kept in cages astern, but they were locked in, and the doors could not be burst open.

The fire rapidly became worse and after a consultation, Mr. Webb and Captain Jackson decided that the only chance of saving the vessel was to sink her by firing a shot into her below the water line. There was no British warship in port, and Mr. Webb and Captain Jackson applied to the military authorities at Pulau Brani for assistance. It was desired if possible to take a gun out in a launch and put in a shot through the water line. The military authorities courteously promised to do their best. The weapons were for war purposes, and the destruction would be great. Two signallers were taken on board Mr. Webb's launch from Blakang Mati, and a pot of paint from Keppel Harbour to make a mark on the water line for a target. The gunner at Fort Pasir Panjang were ordered to fire at the blazing vessel with a

SIX INCH QUICK-FIRER.

Thursday is the soldiers' holiday, but the gunners turned to willingly. An officer took charge of the battery. Captain Jackson and his second officer returned to their vessel and made fast a stout hawser to the stern. The ship was lying bows on the battery and in that position a shot would have taken her from stem to stern. The *Varuna* took the other end of the hawser and slowly steamed ahead, swinging the *Kaloma* broadside on to the fort. The other launches steamed some distance away and one of them towed off the carpenter's boat. A while bull's eye was painted on the water line, outside the number two hold. "Hoist a red flag when you want us to fire" signalled the battery.

The *Varuna* kept the hawser tight to prevent the ship from drifting bows on again, and signalled to the fort "Are we safer?" "Yes" was the cheerful reply of the men behind the long wicked-looking six-inch mortar. There was some discussion as to whether the ship would blow-up or not after she had been hit at racing speed. Captain Davies had a man ready to cast loose the hawser, and was as cool as if he had been under fire all his life. The salvage steamer was scarcely three hundred yards from the target.

Up went the red flag to the masthead and there was a burst of smoke from the fort. A few seconds of silence followed and B-o-o-o-o went the gun on the hill two miles away.

A CLEAN SIX INCH HOLE was drilled through the ship's side a foot above the white painted hull. Not far from the first shot! Flame spouted from the hole. The gunners had not quite got the range yet. Their second shot went high, and passed over the vessel and danced along the top of the calm water. The gunners were using solid shot so as not to do too much damage. A shell would have torn her side out. The third shot went through the water line, but a fine shot. The ship followed a pretty exhibition of shooting. Six times running, the gunners planted solid shot on the same spot. The balls went through the ship as easily as if she had

BEEN AN EGG SHELL.

Captain Jackson was much affected when he saw the holes knocked in his fine eighteen-months' old ship. Captain Blanford, R.G.A., and Lieut. Oator, the Acting Master Attendant, came up in time to see the shooting. The flames raged more fiercely, and the whole of the fore part of the ship was ablaze, dense volumes of smoke pouring upwards. Explosions followed explosion and the structures were thrown into the air. The flames were fanned by the current through the shot holes. The vessel seemed to be slowly settling down with a list to port. It could not be understood why she did not sink. The order was then given to cease firing and the flag on the *Varuna* talked to the fort and the bombardment stopped. It was not considered advisable to make too big a hole in the ship's side for fear the

BLAZING OIL WOULD POUR out and float into Tanjong Pagar with the tide. Nothing could be done for the doomed *Kaloma*, and it was decided to let her burn out on fire.

When a representative left last evening, the forepart of the ship was a roasting mass of flame, and there seemed every likelihood that she will continue to burn for a considerable time. During the day a number of people came down to see the ship, there being quite a fleet of launches round her at different times. The novelty of the bombardment on shore. The vessel is now lying about three-quarters of a mile from the shore, and the daily danger now is if the burning oil should escape and come up on the tide. The police have left a launch to guard the ship and be ready to give immediate information should any further developments occur.

At nine o'clock the fore part of the ship was practically under water, though the fire was burning fiercely amidships.

THE Phoenix Assurance Co., Ltd., by their local agents Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Ltd., have issued a neat little pocket note book and pencil in case to advertise the company.

For failing to enter in a register the name, sex, age, occupation and date of arrival of two lodgers, on the 20th ult., and also failing to have printed in a conspicuous place on the third floor of his premises the name of persons whose floor may legally occupy, Chan Fook of 191, De Vaux Road Central, had to pay five and ten on the two counts at the Police Court on the 24th ult. The first charge was also preferred against Lo Sam Tin, of 40, Connaught Road West, and a fine of \$50 imposed.

Six years and one day imprisonment in Bilibid for the abduction of the Manila criminal court on the 21st ult. Imposed on Alfred Hall, alias A. W. Hall, charged with the falsification of a public document. Hall appeared in court and at first entered a plea of not guilty but after consultation with his attorney he withdrew the plea and pleaded guilty to the charge of falsification, and the court pronounced sentence without further delay. Alfred Hall was charged with the falsification of a public document in that, as the specifications allege, he falsified a post-office money order for \$50 giving himself as an official of the office of Robert Post, V.A.T.

It is also developed that at the time of the falsification Hall was a government official and employed in the Manila post-office. Hall was arrested in Hongkong and taken to Manila.

THE POLICE BALL.

OVER THREE HUNDRED GUESTS INVITED.

The annual dance of the Hongkong Police Force took place at the City Hall on Wednesday and proved a decidedly enjoyable and successful function in every respect. The place was artistically decorated with an abundance of evergreens and flags, which were very tastefully arranged. Machado's String Band was in attendance and supplied excellent music in accompaniment to the merry tripping of dancing couples.

Dancing commenced shortly after nine. A well-arranged programme was got up, which the merry-makers did ample justice to. St. George's Hall was reserved for the dancing while supper was served in St. Andrew's Hall. Those who sought a spell of rest or were not very graceful dancers were provided with the ever-attractive card-room in an adjoining room.

Following were the committees appointed to whose untiring pains the success of the entertainment was due:

General Committee.—Chief Inspector Baker, Detective-Inspector Hanson, Messrs. Withers, Parr, Gordon, Appleton, Wilson, Watt, O'Connell, McDonald, Cooper, Ferguson, Stuart Brooks, Elliott and Lee (secretary).

Bar Committee.—Messrs. Ferguson, Elliott and Kendall.

Supper Committee.—Messrs. Lee and Parr.

Card Committee.—Messrs. Wilson, Adlington and Bell.

The M.C.'s were Messrs. Stuart and Cooper, who ably discharged their duty.

A word of praise is due to the Chinese contractor Yee Koo, in whose hands the supper arrangements were left, for the satisfactory way in which he carried out not the least interesting part of the evening's enjoyment.

The Police proved themselves admirable hosts, which was very much appreciated by all who attended the dance.

FIRE ON THE "TSINAN."

JAPANESE DISCOVERED IN THE HOLD.

In regard to the fire on the steamer *Tsinan*, the *Japan Chronicle* of 18th ult. learns from the Kobe Water Police that the fire was discovered off Shimoshima, Kishu, about 5 o'clock on Wednesday morning. Noticing the smell of something burning, investigations were made, when a shot of knocking were distinguished coming from a hatch. This was accordingly opened and a Japanese coffin was discovered in a very exhausted condition, the knocking being made to attract the attention of those on board. It was then discovered that the hold was on fire. The steamer put back to Kobe and a fire signal was hoisted. The Superintendent of the Water Police and a number of police officers on the *Honmaru*, a salvage boat, went to the assistance, and launches belonging to steamship companies and other boats from the shore followed, the flames being extinguished by about 1 o'clock in the evening. The coffin was handed over to the Water Police by the Captain, and is now under examination. Two boxes of matches were found in his possession, but no tobacco. He stated that he had been smoking in the hold, in company with other coolies, whilst working in the harbour of Kobe, but missing the boat which conveyed the coolies back to shore, he concealed himself in the hold. It is believed, however, that the man was attempting to travel to Yokohama free of charge. The steamer carried 400 bales of raw cotton and 200 packages of hemp, in addition to a quantity of general cargo. The fire, began in the cotton. The damage is estimated at about ¥50,000.

THE EXPANSION OF AUSTRALIA IN THE EAST.

Now that Australia looks beyond her own borders she turns towards the East. Destiny pointed the way from her birth as a British community in a virgin land at the Pacific gate of Asia. But, until lately, she failed to rise to her opportunities because she cherished her remoteness as her first line of defence. She did, however, take her part in building up the South Sea Islands trade, and with a few exceptions, does as much to aid in keeping the flag flying in the South Pacific as Canada in the North. This is as it should be. But what they want for further expansion is the co-operation of the mother-country. For, hitherto, when her attitude has not been passive, she has been obliging European nations at the expense of her own colonies, planting the German flag in particular at their front door. But, with the advent of that restless Power in the Pacific, Australia's illusion was dispelled, awakening an instinctive consciousness of danger, which was heightened by the rise of Japan. In the political field it stimulated the national sentiment towards federation; in the commercial field the growth of trade relations with the Orient.

For here not only does she find full scope for her expanding ambition, but equality of opportunity. In the South Sea Islands she was seated the first by their geographical limitations, and the second by the action of foreign Powers. In the flourishing trade of the Pacific, in the Maraballs by the grossly unfair competition of a company, behind which was the Wilhelmstrasse; and in the New Hebrides by the terms of the Anglo-French Treaty. No wonder Australia is turning her attention to the

THE RICH AND LUCRATIVE MARKETS OF THE EAST.

reaching out to them in every direction with a vigour which is unparalleled in the development of Greater Britain's foreign trade. In them she knows at least where she stands. She can neither be taken in the rear by the exigencies of Imperial policy, nor suffer any restriction which is not general in its application, while the supreme advantage of proximity to the centre of the growth of her export trade to the East during the past sixteen years—

Country. 1891. 1907.

India & Ceylon	1,000,871	1,377,314	£8,566,834
Philippines	21,604	106,122	570,528
Straits Settlements	151,243	113,528	559,402
Java	70,582	172,000	274,910
Hongkong	491,771	413,711	879,946
China	30,749	128,705	410,441
Japan	10,578	133,355	706,279

£1,786,458 £4,334,905 £24,444,340

Add to the value of the exports the value of the imports, over four millions, and one finds that the grand

TOTAL OF AUSTRALIA'S EASTERN TRADE is £15,000,000. In themselves the figures are suggestive, but more so when one reads the story they mean. In 1891 her imports from the countries named in the table were twice as large as her exports to them. By 1907 she had exactly reversed the position of 1891 in her own favour. Again, it is possible to make a comparison between her Asiatic export trade and Germany's without absurdity. There is a difference of £5,000,000 against her, but at her present rate of growth she will soon be wiped out. In the East, therefore, she is a rising star of England's greatest rival, and now that America's Eastern trade has declined by one-half, with

them in the running for commercial ascendancy in the Orient. Only for her connection with the British Empire her position would be anomalous. For Germany is not only second among the Great Powers, but easily first in organization. Australia has an area of three million square miles with a population of less than four. Hence the moral, material, and physical basis for the huge fabric of overseas trade she is building up exists, not in her, but in the Empire as a whole. That is to say, she is the Empire's asset, and the British Dominion expands because she exists. She is the keystone of the arch, and because she is Australia, her geographical situation notwithstanding.

Not that her products are varied, but they are just those which Asia needs most. For though Australia's northern territory is tropical, her greatest development has been reached in the temperate South, and is likely to continue for generations to come.

HER EXCHANGE WITH THE ORIENT is, therefore, the most natural and permanent form of commerce. For timber, coal, lead, copper, and sandalwood the market has grown steadily since the seventies, but suddenly since 1900 for instance, the American annexation of the Philippines and the Chinese boycott of American goods. The one has enabled a Queensland company to erect in Manila cold storage works on a large scale and with all the latest improvements in machinery, besides keeping the garrison and civilian white population supplied with meat and dairy produce, turns out 1,000 tons of ice a day. The other in China and the Straits Settlements, a larger and more diversified export, has been a boon to the Empire's trade.

But it is not only in commerce that the Commonwealth is making her mark in Asia, but in the development of industries and communications.

In Tokyo, which covers a vast area, the tramways are a private enterprise, whose inspiration is the Australian, Sir Malcolm McEacharn. The company formed by his patient diplomacy was one of the largest and most flourishing undertakings of the kind in the East. Mr. W. K. D'Arcy is providing the money for working a petroleum concession in the Karun Valley, one of our "undeveloped estates." Mr. Lennox Davies is finding a profitable field of investment in Ceylon. In his report of 1900 the Resident of Pahang wrote "that it was due to the Queenslanders, Mr. Bibby, more than any single individual, the creation of the gold-mining industry in this State." The Raub Australia Company, of which he was manager, produces three times as much as any of its rivals, and in the dark days of the industry it was his dogged refusal to accept defeat that prevented its utter collapse. Even as early as 1885 it was Australian concessionaires who first worked the tin mines of Perak, up to then a monopoly of the Chinese.

With this commercial activity

MARITIME ENTERPRISE

is keeping pace, new steamship routes being opened up as the borders of trade widen. Take, for instance, the new through service to Shanghai, subsidised by the Government of New South Wales. Its object is to provide direct intercourse with China, at present all goods having to be transhipped at Hongkong. Then there is the East and Australia Line, which with three big passenger and cargo ships, whose line begins at Sydney and ends at Nagasaki. Besides these new ventures there is the monthly service to India, ports, Manila and Java, which has always done most of the carrying trade in remittances for the Indian Army. The most significant move in connection with the East is, however, the arrangement by which Messrs. Burns, Philp and Co. are to establish a subsidised line of steamers for the purpose of a submarine cable communication between Sydney and Singapore by way of Japanese ports.

For it should be remembered that when Herr Dernburg, with a view to linking up Australia, the East Indies, and Japan in the interests of German trade, wanted the Reichstag to increase by £25,000 the Imperial subsidy paid to the Norddeutscher Lloyd, the sum was halved by eliminating the amount for a service between New Guinea and Singapore. That the opportunity thus missed by Germany should be seized by the Commonwealth through Messrs. Burns, Philp and Co. is one of the ironies of international competition. For it was they who were squeezed out of the Maraballs by a German company.

It will thus be seen that the Commonwealth is actively building up

A MERCANTILE MARINE

in which State aid is a recognised principle. That her activity in the Pacific is already felt may be gathered from Herr Dernburg's speech in pressing for a shipping subsidy last May. By another decade it will be a factor of Imperial importance, since it is in these ports, where British shipping has declined most, that Australia is making the greatest headway as a maritime State. At Bangkok we once had 80 German ships, and in the last decade of the century we were broken down by the sale of steamers wholesale to the foreigners. There is not the least doubt that if the Resolution of the Premiers on trade and navigation at the Conference of 1902 were put in practice England would quickly recover her old supremacy, and with the aid of the Pacific Dominions, more absolutely than ever. For Australia in particular can achieve great things in the way of trade and commerce, if it stands to reason she can achieve greater things with it.

This is especially true where India is concerned. In spite of her proximity to Australia and position near the main steamship routes, she is not so well served as she should be. The last decade of the last century complained that "our exchange is backward." It is backward still. In 1890 Australia sent to India horses, wine, copper, silver, gold, coal, and wool. To this list may now be added, lead, wheat, hay, tallow, and timber, the value of the last alone running into three figures. But she looks forward to the development of an ever-increasing trade in dairy produce, meats, bacon, and such luxuries as fruits and vegetable out of season. It is surely a pity from every point of view that the American army and American residents in the Philippines should be better customers for foodstuffs from the Commonwealth than the British Army and British residents in India. It has been suggested that with the aid of legislation, or public action of any kind India might be mutually benefited, and with them the whole Empire, simply by giving Government control of the Indian Commissariat to an Imperial end. But when the War Office gives no preference to home and colonial producers, one can hardly expect it from the India Office. Nowhere under the Crown is Imperial co-operation so urgently required as it is in the East, because both India and Australia are handicapped by distance, and neither of them can be considered separately from the other.—*F. M. M. Gosselin*

HONGKONG: 1858-1898.

BY AN OLD RESIDENT.

It is a revolution indeed from the barren, unkempt rock of fifty years ago to the prosperous, house-covered Victoria Peak of the present day; but the change is merely emblematic of the alterations which have taken place—politically, socially, and commercially—in the island of fragrant streams "since it was first ceded to Great Britain. We are not, however, called upon to go so far back as the latter date, but are content to note that in the first year with which we are concerned the island was just beginning to feel the effect of the "Arrow" in its driving many of the heads of mercantile firms from Canton to Hongkong, whence commerce might be more safely and conveniently directed. It is interesting to remember that these heads of houses were in no case old men, while their juniors were universally much younger than would have been deemed allowable—their responsibilities considered—by business folk at home. Business was, however, in one way rendered safer by the absence of telegrams, except a few which were forwarded by steamer from Singapore, while the fortuitous mails gave a breathing space in which buyers and sellers might approach one another without the disturbing influence of political scares or cleverly manipulated statistics. The French mail service to the Far East had not then been started, and the P. and O. boats steamed into port with letters of some six weeks back. The business position was, in fact, an ideal one for the leisurely-minded operator, and much money was made by sound judgment and foresight. The opium steamers—many have perished faster than the P. and O., and driven for all that were worthy, were generally—like the character in Dickens' novel—"round the corner," and came in at their owners' sweet will and pleasure after the opium and exchanged quotations which they carried had been manipulated for the benefit of the firm whose house flag they flew. The game was a very pretty and a very profitable one, and could hardly be taken exception to; but it ceased with the extension of the telegraph wire to Hongkong.

The Governor at the date from which our review starts was the late Sir John Bowring, a many-sided and able man, who dealt in Chinese literature and hymn-writing, but who could be strong when occasion required. Mr. Justin McCarthy, in "A History of Our Own Times," describes him as "full of self-conceit, and without any very clear idea of political principles on a large scale," but he was undoubtedly and wisely firm in the "Arrow" matter, which was, after all, only the culminating factor to a long series of Chinese breaches of faith. It is not within our power to enumerate all the successive governors and officials with whom Hongkong has been blessed during the past fifty years. Since the days of Sir Hercules Robinson onward they have varied in ability, suitability, and adaptability; but the general result has been to increase the value of Hongkong as an Eastern possession, and to increase the Chinese respect for, and confidence in, our methods of government.

As a place of residence, Hongkong has, of course, made material progress during the half century under review. In 1858 many buildings were in course of erection, and sites for them were determined more by situation than by sanitary fitness. Old Chinese graveyards were situated in many cases, and the hot sun beating on green jade tablets laid the foundation for the "Hongkong Fever" which has done so much to fill the cemetery at "Happy Valley." The motto on that place of rest is *hodie vivit, cras fili*, and cholera, fever, and, in later years, the plague, have done their best to make the motto appropriate.

No notice of Hongkong and its progress would be complete without a reference to Kowloon. Fifty years ago it was merely a strip of Chinese territory, and forty-eight years ago His Majesty's present Keeper of the Fifty Years' Register sent a picked men from his own regiment at a tent-pegging competition on that alien soil. It is now an annex of Hongkong; and will, in the fulness of time, be connected with Canton by railway. It has served its purpose of relieving the pressure on Hongkong, and it is invaluable in many ways for the prosperity of the colony. It may be noted that among the recent additions to the members of the Legislative Council there figures the name of a member of a German firm, which is quite in accordance with the principle which has made, and which keeps, Hongkong a free port, but in this connection it may be asked what probability there is of any Englishman holding any office in the Government of Kio-chow? It must be at once said that Germans have always occupied prominent positions among the mercantile community of the colony; that they have been excellent citizens; but this fact in no degree does away with the pertinence of our question.

Dr. Williams calls Hongkong "a Chinese settlement protected by British rule," and there is a certain amount of truth in the description; but the facts remain that this island, set in a silver sea, forms a striking object-lesson as to the benefits accruing from enlightened British rule, that it shows the value of officials who are incorruptible, as well as the moral and social results flowing from the administration of justice by impartial and unerring hands.

Canton may fully be mentioned here. The old foreign residents in Canton were, fifty years ago, wise in their generation in recognising the possibilities of that place becoming, with enlightened Chinese co-operation, one of the most valuable ports for foreign trade; but not until the native authorities allow railway to do there full work will its value as an *entrepôt* be entirely established. In 1858 H.M. Consul there was Mr. C. A. Wickham, an able Scotchman, imbued with his fingerprints with Foreign Office ways, a somewhat indolent in his methods, but an able despatch writer, and a man of very sound judgment. His assistant was Mr. (now Sir Robert) Hart, and it was here that the latter laid the foundation of that knowledge of Chinese character and methods which has stood him in good stead through all the intervening years. Railways were unbought of, the opening of the West River was a mere dream, and trade was only just recovering from the effects of Governor and the war of the Opium. The city was occupied by the joint forces of Great Britain and France. The present writer played cricket with Mulwasy almost under the shadow of the Great Temple, and had Orkney's by his side at the drop-scene rope during the Canton garrison theatricals. Several of the officers stationed in the city of Rams subsequently attained to high commands, and a junior earned his V.C. at the taking of the Taku forts.—*L. B. C. Express*

A FERING letter states that the Prince Regent has informed the various Viceroy, Governors, and Chief Officers of the provinces, that the New Year's gifts and those presented usually given by them upon the accession of a new Sovereign will not be accepted, with the exception only of such as may be used for sacrificial worship before the altars of the five Imperial Majesties Emperor Tai Tsung-ching (Kuang Tsu) and Empress Hsiao Ching-hsien (Empress Dowager Dowager Tai, etc., etc.)

THE CITY OF CANTON.

Canton is one of the Chinese towns that to this day shows little trace of foreign influence, and the first realisation of the stranger who sails into the harbour is one of the beautiful river boats, over a deep grey, placid river, past rows of sampans and of glorious brown-sailed junks, is of something absolutely strange, of a life incomprehensible to Western eyes. One recalls Canton, of which the late Dowager Empress of China was a humble native. The daughter of lucksters in Canton would probably be in no way distinguishable from the crowds of women and girls who, through those narrow streets to-day, as they did centuries ago. So narrow are these streets that, stretching your arms, you can often touch the small, closely set booths on either side. Everywhere the glow and splendour of colour meet your eyes: crimson, yellow, blue, from the looms of the silk-weavers or the embroiderers, the gleam of copper or of gold from the jewellers; indignant lights from the kingly fishers' lanterns, dully handled by the exanellers, and the endless play of buns where the famamers are using their brushes.

THE DAILY LIFE

of the Cantonese is devoted to toil, and yet they find time for recreation, for the hum of conversation and of laughter fills the street, and the traveller who passes through it in a chair will find himself pressed upon, gazed at, and criticised by a dense mass of people, who touch him, and do not hesitate to ask him questions that are frequently embarrassing. At the upper end of every little room into which you glance there is a large screen, gay with gilt and colours, and a small table in front of it is set, flanked, on each side, by a special observance, by a dish of roast pig and new oranges. This is the joss house, without which no family would regard itself as secure from the wrath of the many gods—such, for example, as one of the 500 enclosed within the great temple. Birds twitter from cages at each open doorway as you pass, and frequently the trill of a bird's note rises louder than all the noise around you. The Chinaman has a peculiar love for birds, and it is rare to see him set out, even on a long journey, without his bird in its gilded cage wrapped in a blue linen cloth.

NATIVE SHOPPING.

Whatever be the ware sold by the shopkeeper, his store is filled to overflowing, for space is at a premium, and the booths are all busy over his morning's shopping. He has a bamboo-rod over his shoulders, and you notice his neat little scraps of meat or fish, and the cunning small scraps figure at the door of the eating houses, nicely fried and hung on strips of bamboo. The shops of the grocers are the most attractive, for all vegetables are washed and spread out to the best advantage. Spinach is a favourite, and huge bundles of it, cut with pretty long stems, and perfectly washed, are displayed in every shop. Lettuce, onions, potatoes, vegetable marrow, cucumbers, and gherkins are in general use. The fruit markets are literally crammed with fruit from season to season. Rice forms, perhaps, the most important part of the household supplies, since it is the basis for a number of articles in daily consumption. Round the grocer's stall, for instance, you will note a series of large tubs, jars, in each of which a long spoon is placed. These contain such appetising additions to the daily meal of boiled rice as pickled onions, cabbage, beans, anchovies, pounded fish, chilies made into sauce, also tomatoes such as the Italians use, and pickled beans. The grocer sells, too, eggs preserved in coatings of clay, those which he can announce as obtaining the best price. Piles of vermicelli made from rice decorate one of his long tables; bean curd, resembling the curd of cheese, falls in a stone receptacle, and he is careful to have the fins of fish and of sharks dried and sold. His soy is one of his special products, and he will doubtless have some in process of making. Small brown beans parboiled form its basis. They are next rolled in flour and spread on bamboo racks to dry for ten days. From the racks they are placed in stone jars and covered with salt and water, where they lie until the necessary chemical fermentation takes place.

A Chinese shopkeeper who is well disposed towards his visitor is sure to offer a little white curd, a sambar, the national liquor, and he is not difficult to persuade to the process of making it is interesting. In the back regions of his shop stands a huge stone boiler in which the rice for the sambar is first cooked before it is put into a jar where it ferments for a month. It next goes into a metal pot, and is set on a stove inside of rings of canvas thickly padded. On the top is another pot of cold water, and as the spirit is distilled, it runs out.

THE TIENTSIN-PUKOU RAILWAY.

AN IMPERIAL DECREE.

The following Imperial Decree is dated Peking, 18th ult.:—When the construction of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway was first mooted, the Grand Secretary Chang Chik-ang, the Grand Councilor Yuan Shih-kai, and Liang Tzu-shan, Vice-President of the Waiwupu, jointly memorialized the Throne suggesting that the said line should eventually be jointly owned and operated by the Government and gentry and merchants of the three provinces through which the proposed Railway passed. It was suggested that, two years after the building of the line, after the Government had repaid the foreign loan, the gentry and merchants of the three provinces should be authorized to raise one-half the capital of the Railway for which bonds would be issued and that the line should be in future known and operated as a joint Government and mercantile enterprise. Subsequently Lu Hai-bun (Director General of the Railway) in preparing the regulations for the sale of railway bonds to the gentry and merchants reported that, as the line would also pass through a portion of Anhui, the gentry and merchants of that province should also be given the privilege of subscribing for the bonds after the sale of the said limit of ten years, and that the holders of the bonds should be allowed to keep them and not be compelled (as was the case recently of the Telegraph Administration when private owners of shares were compelled to sell them) to the Ministry of Posts and Communications—Translator to part with them in the future on any excuse whatever to the Government. This was approved by the Throne, but now the said Lu Hai-bun again reports that all the Tientsin-Pukou Railway is known as the "Four Provinces Railway, Ltd., of Tientsin and Pukou" there has been, so far, considerable hesitation amongst the people of the four provinces concerned in taking interest in the construction of the said line. We hereby decree that the Tientsin-Pukou Railway shall be a line jointly owned by the Government and the Gentry and Merchants, and that on no pretext whatever shall private owners be allowed to give them up to the Government in the future. Let these four commands be notified to the Gentry and Merchants of the various provinces concerned and let them be exhorted to use their best efforts in raising funds for the object in view.

According to the latest news from the North we have now fairly begun the Tientsin-Pukou Railway, which, by the way, the original concession, which granted to the original concessionary, Yung Wing Syndicate, was given as long ago as the year 1897. The agreement under which the line is actually being constructed with capital supplied jointly by British and German financiers was signed on February 13 of last year, and the first sod was cut early in the past summer. But since that ceremony was performed the information that has come out, in somewhat meagre details, has not been very satisfactory. Some parties have made out the original concession to various Chinese metal works to ascertain how far they would be capable of supplying the requisite materials. A little later, we were told of the institution of a telegraph and telephone school at Tientsin where Chinese operators were to be trained for future duties along the railway, when it should be completed. It seems unlikely to suggest that the line should be, after all, the principal object of care, and that telegraph operators might safely be left to a later date. During the winter a formidable list of man-of-war, superintendents and deputy assistants had been retained, the majority of them were practically without any employment worth the name. Much time, also, had been wasted in wrestling with the claims of those who possessed ancestral burying grounds along the proposed route of the railway. Now, however, from Tsingchow, two days' journey southward of Tientsin, come decidedly more hopeful accounts. Gangs of coolies are reported to have been at work for the past six or seven weeks, and the embankment on which the line will run is completed for a distance of nearly eleven miles north and south of the city. The removal of graves appears to be giving more trouble than it did even in the case of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway. But the Governor of Tsingchow, we are told, has shown that he can handle his knotty question with equal firmness and humanity, and the population of Tsingchow is already optimistic as to the benefits which they begin to anticipate for their city.

Meanwhile considerable interest attaches to the Imperial Decree, dealing with the financial position of the railway. The terms on which the necessary capital was supplied are generally familiar: they are shaped in accordance with the now approved compromise whereby the Chinese Government has found it possible to reconcile the desire to retain control in its own hands. Warnings have been heard to the effect that, so far as the British contribution is concerned, the agreement for the Tientsin-Pukou line does not properly safeguard the shareholders' interests; and that by this deficiency China's credit may be seriously impaired in the future. But it is obviously too late to raise this objection now. On the other hand it is of vital importance that the harmony of purpose between provincials and Government, at which the latter particularly professed to aim, should be preserved: and it is here, according to the decree, that the rift within the line now appears. The principle, we are there told, which the construction of the line should under-stand be the ownership of the line should be divided equally between the Government and merchants of the four provinces through which the line would pass. Bonds were to be issued to the extent of one half of the total capital and these it was expected would readily be taken up by the provincials. Unfortunately the latter appear to be shy of the scheme; they show "considerable hesitation" in taking interest in the construction of the said line. Considering that the foreign capital can be raised, and consequently before the railway will become entirely a native possession, it might be thought that the Government was prematurely anxious. But the records of railways under purely Chinese management are, with the one exception of the Kalgan line, none too good; and the urgent wording of the decree leaves it only to be supposed that there is far more behind the document than appears on the face of it.

Two reasons suggest themselves for the reluctance of provincials to take up the offered bonds. The first is hinted at by the decree itself, namely, that the forcible acquisition by Government of the privately owned shares in the Chinese telegraph system has had a very bad effect on the popular appetite for public undertakings. To meet this objection native capitalists are now informed, with the most moving urgency, that the bonds will be regarded as their own absolute property for so long as they please to hold them. The second probable reason for the "hesitation" is, however, more obvious. It is the fact that for some time past the Government has been engaged in a series of efforts to

the Government's part to assist its authority over the provinces, and it is hardly probable that the provinces will submit without some effort at retaliation. If they suspect, as they probably do suspect, that joint ownership with Government means the loss to themselves of what might be called unofficial means of gain, what simpler course could they take than that of passive resistance to the whole scheme, which will compel the Government either to find the greater part of the foreign loan itself, or to allow the provincials what they would consider a better investment for their money. If this surmise is correct, the decree would not appear to have been very wisely contrived. There is no harm in an official assurance that the bonds now offered for sale will be regarded as inviolable. But to allow it to appear that the Government is in any way anxious as to the money being forthcoming is to undermine the whole position of authority which it has been at so much pains to secure; and the immediate effect of the decree is to make what should be regarded as a gracious concession appear now as an appeal for popular assistance. If the provincials shrink from subscribing, the alternative is that the Government should boldly go on the project of exclusive ownership and with proper control, economy, and the restriction of the burden of the line there is no valid reason why the Tientsin-Pukou line should not be remunerative enough to justify such speculation.—N. C. D. News.

CHINA AND AMERICA.

TANG SHAO-YI'S MESSAGE OF GREETING.

Following is a translation of the message of greeting from Tang Shao-yi, special ambassador from the Chinese Empire, to the people of the United States:—

To the people of the United States:—

I am commanded by my sovereign to come to your country for the purpose of thanking your government for its magnanimous action in remitting a portion of the indemnity with which the relations between the two countries will become closer.

I have been greatly impressed to-day on my arrival with the business activity and rapid growth of the United States. This is a matter for congratulation. I avail myself of this occasion to send my personal greetings to the American people.

TANG SHAO-YI, Special ambassador to the United States. Sent by His Imperial Chinese Majesty.

JUNK "WANG HO."

DISMANTLED AT THURSDAY IS.

The notorious Chinese junk *Wang Ho*, which left here in January for New York, and which was recently placed on the overdue list and thought by many to have gone to Davy Jones' locker, is at Thursday Island in the South Pacific in a dismantled condition, reports a San Francisco exchange, of 23rd Nov. The British steamer *Mouma* arriving at Victoria yesterday, reported that the junk had been picked up by a cutter and towed to Thursday, where she now lies a hulk.

Reinsurance was quoted on the freakish craft at a high rate, and many thought it an easy play "not to arrive." Details as to the advent of the *Wang Ho* and her crew were not contained in the dispatch received at the Merchants' Exchange yesterday.

The *Wang Ho* was brought out here two years ago from China and exhibited on a "relief of old China," but as such did not realize the expectations of her managers, who later decided to take the craft around the Horn for the edification of sightseers at Coney Island.

Leaving here in January last the Chinese junk some months later, where the crew immediately "deserted" and returned here on the steamer *Maritima*. Another crew was secured and the voyage to New York once more begun. Since the *Wang Ho* left Tahiti several months ago nothing has been seen or heard of her until she was picked up by the cutter, as reported by the steamer *Mouma*.

THE LATE MR. W. E. CHUNYUT.

FORMER HONGKONG RESIDENT DIES IN MANILA.

The Manila *Call*, of 25th ult., says:—The friends of E. Chunyut, Assistant Chief Surveyor, Bureau of Lands, will learn with deep regret of his death, on December 23rd at San Juan de Dios Hospital, Manila, at the age of thirty-two years. He had been ill for several months with an aneurism of an artery due to a strain. A trip to Hongkong to rest and visit his family during November seemed to do him a great deal of good, but on December 19th a severe attack compelled him to go to the hospital where he received the best care and attention. No doubt of his ultimate recovery were entertained until within a very short time of his death.

Mr. Chunyut was born in Melbourne, Australia, and came to the Philippines before the American occupation and worked with a commercial firm in Iloilo. Late in 1901 he was appointed a surveyor in the office of the Provincial Supervisor in Iloilo, where he remained until October, 1903, when he was transferred to the Moro Province as a junior engineer. In February, 1905, he was transferred to the Bureau of Lands as a surveyor, where he remained until his death.

His work was characterized by accuracy, neatness and attention to detail.

All persons with whom he came in contact, whether American, English, Spanish or Filipino, became his friends. The Insular Government has lost a most valuable servant and those who knew him a pleasant and valued friend and companion.

His mother and several brothers and sisters live in Hongkong and deeply mourn his loss.

ORIENTAL BURIAL CUSTOMS.

The ordinary coffin used in Smyrna is made of the wood, for the reason that it practically is the only one in demand. It is very cheap and supplied by carpenters to coffin dealers, who in turn decorate it with covers of black and white cloth and adorn it otherwise with gold or silver trimmings. The price depends to a great extent upon the financial circumstances of the purchaser. Therefore, a coffin may sell for \$5 to \$25. Some dealers occasionally give a coffin free to some poor man out of charity. There are also coffins made of walnut and mahogany, but these are very expensive, the price being \$50 to \$75, each, even without covered cloth or trimming, as the wood itself is beautiful enough in its simplicity.

There are about twelve coffin dealers, or establishments in Smyrna, two of which only are situated in the city. This is a system generally practiced among the native population of the Orient, which suits many people, for the reason that for a nominal sum of \$5 to \$10 the burial expenses may be covered. The practice, however, may often be a source of spreading of contagious diseases. The majority of the coffin dealers here also produce the renting of coffins, for it is the trade generally, but the municipality has steadily refused to interfere. Some time ago a series of efforts to

SHANGHAI PROSPERITY.

CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS.

It is only in certain lines of business that, as yet, we can say there has been a change for the better in the trade conditions of the settlement. Just as one sees outside the mouth of the Yangtze, while still in sea water, lines and streaks of the silt bearing current which a little farther on is to occupy the whole area of the estuary, so it is now in the sea of depression through which we have been ploughing our weary way for the past three years. We are not yet in the full current of success, but there are signs that we shall arrive there in time.

Meanwhile it will be worth the trouble to consider for a few moments what really are the factors on which the prosperity of the settlement depends. What is it that makes the difference between a period of depression such as we have been passing through and a time of buoyancy such as was seen in 1905? In a sense it may all be summed up in one word, Trade. With trade Shanghai is happy; without it, miserable. In the rough, that is true. But made up of imports and exports. To be really healthy the one should balance the other. It is not to be expected that China can for ever buy without selling. The first thing, therefore, for the importer to think of outside his own particular sphere of action, is how he can aid in the increase of Chinese exports. Is it too much to hope that some day the native tea-grower may be induced to copy his Indian contemporary and prepare his tea in such a manner that the British American and Russian markets may turn to him once more? Shanghai markets should be used unceasingly to this end; for certainly here we have one of the factors of our past prosperity, if not of the present. So with some other staples we might name.

Similarly western influences should be brought to bear as much as possible in the development of all the natural resources of China. Her mineral wealth is hardly touched as yet. To Shanghai it is a matter of secondary importance whether this be done by native or foreign money. When it is done, China will be so much the richer, and to much the more prepared to buy; for her people, like ourselves, are not miserly, and will buy luxuries when they have the wherewithal. Western education, then, should be pushed as much as possible. It creates new tastes, it discloses new sources of wealth, and predisposes those who benefit by it to a wider and more enlightened intercourse with the rest of the world.

At the moment one of the main factors of our prosperity is quite beyond our control. We refer to a stable currency. China has no stable currency. Her new fiat coins which, though they may be made to pass, will be just as unreliable, just as subject to the fluctuations of the market as the Mexican dollar or the lump of sycee. It will not be possible for China to face the world with a coinage which will give the security which steady trade wants. This is a matter on which we should never be silent till it has been settled according to the highest and best principles.

It may take time: it has taken time to get due attention paid to another prime factor in our well-being, the conservancy of the river. But at last that is being done, and in due course we may hope to see Mr. de Rijke is now off by reason of the same time, it must not be doing. At the same time, it is not a problem which can be begun and finished at any fixed date. That can only happen when the river has ceased to run. Though skilled direction can do much to make a stream take care of its own course it cannot do everything, and, especially at the mouth, efficient scouring can be secured only at the cost of constant supervision.

One factor in the success of the Settlement we have long had with us—efficient management. The occasional periods of adverse criticism of our Council have but marked the rule of general satisfaction. It is a question whether or not we have now arrived at a time when a change would be for the benefit of the Council itself as well as for the community. It might well be argued that a growth of five hundred and more per cent in population, revenue, and expenditure might well call for some modification in the method of government. We have already suggested that the Community should consider the question of the enlargement of the Council, and the inclusion of some Chinese Council members. If it could be so, it would be a great step towards the extension of the extension which has now become so necessary as another factor in our success.

Last of all, and perhaps of importance as any, we come to the necessity of a thoroughly good understanding with our native fellow-residents. That such an understanding has been growing of late we are delighted to think: that it may continue until every resident native and foreign is fully convinced that our prosperity depends on our perfect good-will to the one to the other. It is our duty to let us expand as our needs require without bagging over every square yard, then, with returning confidence, there should be such progress and such prosperity as we have rarely seen.—Shanghai Mercury.

FOREIGN UNIVERSITY IN JAPAN.

JESUIT FATHERS HAVE OBTAINED PERMISSION TO FOUND SCHOOL THERE.

As a result of the negotiations between the Holy See, through Cardinal Merry del Val, the papal secretary of state, and the Japanese government, the Jesuit Fathers are shortly to open a university in Japan, presumably in Tokio.

The proposed university is one of the results of the diplomatic mission entrusted to Archbishop O'Connell of Boston, as representative of the Vatican at Tokio some two years ago.

At the request of the Pope the work is to be under the direction of the American Jesuit Fathers, but distinguished scientists and professors of the different countries will be called upon to compose the faculty. American, French and German Jesuits are already on their way to Tokio. The first president of the institution is to be the Very Reverend William Rockwell formerly Provincial of the Jesuits in the United States. He is to be immediately assisted in the work of organization by Father Takimura, a well-known German scientist, and Father Boucher, formerly of the staff at Zikawei in China.

Through the good offices of the Japanese government and the liberality of a wealthy Japanese Catholic, a site for the new structure has already been donated, but as it has been found to be too far from the centres of education another site will have to be obtained. The work of the institution is to be exclusively of a university character, along the existing lines of European and American institutions of the same kind.

SUGAR IN JAPAN.

EVASION OF CUSTOMS DUTY.

EXTRAORDINARY ACTION OF THE CUSTOMS.

What appear to be authoritative particulars of the recent attempted evasion of Customs duty on sugar at Yokkaichi are now published. According to the *Osaka Asahi*, the British steamer *Wongwan*, which arrived at Yokkaichi on the 6th of November, brought 13,000 bags of Luzon sugar, the consignees being the Masudaya, a Japanese firm in Nagoya. In the application made to the Yokkaichi Customs for an import permit, a clerk named Katagiri, of the Yokkaichi branch of the Masudaya, declared the whole quantity to be of No. 1 quality. The amount of the shipment being unusually large, the Customs authorities examined the sugar very closely, when it was found that not less than 4,212 bags of the shipment consisted of No. 2 quality. The discovery was communicated to the Yokohama and Kobe Customs authorities, and Mr. Hayano, an Assistant Appraiser, and other officers in the Osaka Customs proceeded to Yokkaichi in great haste to inquire into the matter. The consignees claimed that the steamer was intended for the purpose of the sale of the sugar to the Yokkaichi branch of the Masudaya, and that the duty was made on the basis of the false declaration. However, the Osaka Customs authorities, who have jurisdiction over Yokkaichi, refused to accept this specious plea, and pronounced the Masudaya guilty of the evasion of the Customs duty. Under Article 75 of the Customs Law, the firm was ordered to pay the sum of ¥3,830, being the difference between the duty on No. 1 and No. 2 quality, in addition to ¥11,514, three times the amount of the duty attempted to be evaded. The money was paid to the Yokkaichi Customs House to avoid further steps being taken. Furthermore, the 4,212 bags of sugar, estimated as being worth between ¥20,000 and ¥25,000, have been confiscated and the sugar is to be disposed of by public auction.

The Osaka journal further states that Mr. Otaki, Superintendent of the Osaka Customs House, is much concerned at the discovery of the attempted evasion of the duty at Yokkaichi. He sent officers to the various bonded warehouses in the city, and had an examination made of some hundred thousand bags of sugar stored therein, when to his astonishment it was found that in most cases No. 2 quality had evidently been passed as No. 1 quality. It was then realized that if steps were taken to prosecute, it was probable that a number of sugar importers, all Japanese, would be ruined by the fines imposed on them. The matter was considered so important a nature that the report of the Osaka Customs House was immediately communicated to the Customs Council, which in turn reported to the Japanese Government. The Council was much alarmed and appealed for the clemency of the authorities. Mr. Otaki, Superintendent of the Osaka Customs, thereupon summoned sugar importers in Osaka and Kobe to his office and informed them of the result of the examination of the sugar stored in the bonded warehouses, which showed that almost every importer had been guilty of a gross violation of the law. However, the Superintendent of the Customs added that the whole matter had been considered, and that it had been decided that no legal action would be taken against the importers for their action in the past, but he warned them that after this no quarter would be given in such cases. The sugar importers, concludes our Osaka contemporary, were thereupon relieved of anxiety, and it is stated that they held a banquet to celebrate their remarkable escape.

The *Hochi* quotes Mr. Nonaka, the head of the Customs Revenue Bureau, for the following statement, which was of course made before the settlement was reported above:—

Private information was received by the Finance Department of the evasion of the Customs duty at Yokkaichi, but such matters must be taken up by the department only on information laid by the Superintendent of the Customs House concerned. An official report may be received shortly from the competent authorities. Sugar is classified into four qualities by the Sugar Tax Law. Crude sugar is classified as No. 1 quality, brown sugar as No. 2, white-brown as No. 3, and pure white as No. 4. As a matter of fact, it is very difficult to distinguish No. 2 from No. 3. There is a wide difference in the Customs duty between these qualities. If No. 2 quality is passed for No. 1 quality and No. 3 for No. 2, the amount of the duty evaded will be enormous, as sugar is imported in large quantities at a time. The Yokkaichi Customs is a branch of the Osaka Customs, and the staff of the Yokkaichi branch is very small and so large a number—over 10,000 bags at one time—being imported into Yokkaichi astonished the examiners. The importers may have chosen that port deliberately in order to evade the Customs duty. In case of the evasion of this event being substantiated by the report of the Osaka Customs, the firm which has attempted the evasion of duty will be severely punished.

REFUEL OF DUTY ON UNREFINED SUGAR URGED.

Referring to the rebate on sugar duty, which bids fair to become one of the important questions in the forthcoming session of the Diet, the *Jiji Shimpō* says that the operation of the sugar duty rebate law now in force will expire on March 31st, 1909, and much discussion is now going on as to the advisability of either the extension of the law in force, or the repeal of the law. The existing law in the event of refined or rock sugar being manufactured and consumed in the country from imported material below No. 8 duty standard allowed, while on qualities between Nos. 8 and 15 the rebate made is ¥1.05. Further, if the sugar is exported the rate of rebate allowed is ¥1.65 and ¥2.25 respectively. The repeal of the law will greatly affect the interests of sugar manufacturers, and it is not therefore surprising that they should do their utmost to secure its continuance. The present rebate is based on the import duty on unrefined sugar, the arrangement being that in case of export the whole of the duty, and in case of domestic consumption about 10 per cent less than the duty, is to be returned. This complicated system of rebates is due to the desire of Government to afford protection by means of a tariff policy to manufacturers of refined and unrefined sugar at the same time. All sugar below No. 15 duty standard is used exclusively as material for refined sugar, and if the Government is desirous of securing the sugar industry the importation of unrefined sugar should have been allowed duty free.

The existence of the import duty on the product, however, was suggested by the desire to protect Japanese manufacturers of unrefined sugar against foreign competition. Properly speaking, therefore, the duty on refined sugar should also be increased to a certain degree as to compensate sugar manufacturers for the loss they are obliged to incur by the use of materials which are taxed. The Government, however, is unable to do this owing to the existence of the Conventional tariff, and it has consequently been compelled to resort to the complicated system of rebates now in operation.

So long as the Government aims to protect manufacturers of both refined and unrefined sugar against the Conventional tariff stipulations, concludes the Tokyo journal, the existence of such a system of rebates is inevitable. It must be presumed that the cause of all the trouble is to be sought in the existence of an import tariff on unrefined sugar. If this were abolished the question would be easily solved, as there would be no need of any rebate. Some may think that the free importation of unrefined sugar would damage the Japanese industry, but the latter has now progressed to such a stage as to be able to hold its ground against the foreign product, which, though it may be admitted duty free, is handicapped by freight and other burdens. Even supposing it were necessary to retain the import on unrefined sugar there would seem to be no necessity for effecting a rebate amounting to almost the whole of the duty on refined sugar intended for domestic consumption. Together, concludes the *Jiji*, the rebate law requires a thorough revision, as its interpretation at present means much loss to the country.—Japan Chronicle.

AN EXCITING CHASE.

PAUL FLOER ELUDES HIS GAOLER.

The following report from the *Shanghai Times*, of 31st ult., gives particulars of the escape of Paul Floer from police custody, recorded in our telegram of that date. A rather sensational termination followed upon the completion of the arrest (in H.B.M.'s Supreme Court on Monday) when Paul Floer was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for before he could be safely lodged in his Majesty's gaol, he had eluded his gaoler and was at liberty.

He was re-arrested a few days before his escape, and was taken charge of by the Chief Gaoler, Mr. J. A. Chandler, whose duty it was to convey him to H.B.M.'s Gaol which is situated in Armo Road. Here Floer was to undergo his imprisonment with hard labour for two years, in addition to the period of nine months to which he was sentenced last month on a charge of extortion. The night was exceedingly dark, with a heavy and incessant rain falling, and the gaoler procured a couple of rickshas for his own and the prisoner's conveyance. The two left the British Consular compound shortly after six o'clock, and went along the Hsien-yuen Road for a short distance, when turning right, the prisoner took the first ricksha, the hood of which was up, his gaoler following in the other, close behind. At Peking Road they turned to the right, and from here the gaoler kept his eyes upon the ricksha immediately in front of him, in which he understood Floer to be riding. But in this he proved to be mistaken, for reaching the junction of Chienyang and Peking Roads the ricksha in question turned off in the opposite direction to the gaol, to the surprise of the gaoler. The latter's surprise became even greater when he jumped out of his own ricksha and found the vehicle in front of him to be occupied by a Chinaman and not Floer, who by this time was missing: in the circumstances the gaoler did the only thing possible for him to do, viz., raise the alarm. This he did by communicating with the Central Police Station, and from there prompt orders were issued to all the other police stations to turn out their men to intercept the escaped convict. The detectives responded with promptitude and instituted inquiries at all the shipping offices, searched every steamer leaving and about to leave, in fact did everything in their power to prevent the prisoner from leaving the Settlement. Floer, though a convict, was not attired in prison clothing; he wore a light check suit, brown shoes, soft brown hat and a blue overcoat. His description was circulated to all policemen on duty, who kept a sharp look-out for the man all the night. The Constable Walls of the Hongkong Police Station (all the credit of Floer's capture without a few minutes of one o'clock yesterday morning). The constable himself had never seen Floer before and all the more credit is therefore due to him for his smart piece of work. Floer was proceeding in a ricksha along the Hsien-yuen Road from the Boone Road and was first noticed by Constable Walls as he was passing the Hongkong Fire Station. The hood of the ricksha was up and his suspicions being aroused, the constable ordered the coolie to stop. He then questioned Floer, who did not deny that he was the man wanted, and willingly accompanied his captor to the Hongkong Station where he was at once identified as Paul Floer. He was searched and in his possession the sum of \$12 was found—seven silver dollars in his pocket and a five-dollar bill concealed inside his hat. When he left the Court, Floer is said to have had no money. In the meantime the detective force had been scouring the whole of the settlement for the missing man, while two of his number had journeyed by ricksha to Woosung and there chartered a junk by which they visited the various islands. There was a continual downpour of rain all the night and practically every detective who took part in the search got a thorough drenching.

As to Floer's movements between the time of his escape and his re-capture the reports are somewhat contradictory, but it is probable that after getting clear of his gaoler he went along Peking Road as far as Sizoa Road and then by Carter Road to Bubbling Well Road. Here he appears to have met an acquaintance with whom he had a conversation, afterwards proceeding by way of Mohale Road into French territory, and to find a suitable means of exit from the city by rail so late at night he returned to this side of the Settlement, only to be re-captured. Yesterday morning he was brought up to H.B.M.'s Consulate where it was expected a charge would be laid against him in the police court, but after considerable delay he was handed over once again to the Chief Gaoler who having put on the handcuffs escorted him back to the gaol where, after an investigation, he will be dealt with for a breach of prison discipline.

The following report from the *Shanghai Times*, of 31st ult., gives particulars of the escape of Paul Floer from police custody, recorded in our telegram of that date. A rather sensational termination followed upon the completion of the arrest (in H.B.M.'s Supreme Court on Monday) when Paul Floer was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for before he could be safely lodged in his Majesty's gaol, he had eluded his gaoler and was at liberty.

He was re-arrested a few days before his escape, and was taken charge of by the Chief Gaoler, Mr. J. A. Chandler, whose duty it was to convey him to H.B.M.'s Gaol which is situated in Armo Road. Here Floer was to undergo his imprisonment with hard labour for two years, in addition to the period of nine months to which he was sentenced last month on a charge of extortion. The night was exceedingly dark, with a heavy and incessant rain falling, and the gaoler procured a couple of rickshas for his own and the prisoner's conveyance. The two left the British Consular compound shortly after six o'clock, and went along the Hsien-yuen Road for a short distance, when turning right, the prisoner took the first ricksha, the hood of which was up, his gaoler following in the other, close behind. At Peking Road they turned to the right, and from here the gaoler kept his eyes upon the ricksha immediately in front of him, in which he understood Floer to be riding. But in this he proved to be mistaken, for reaching the junction of Chienyang and Peking Roads the ricksha in question turned off in the opposite direction to the gaol, to the surprise of the gaoler. The latter's surprise became even greater when he jumped out of his own ricksha and found the vehicle in front of him to be occupied by a Chinaman and not Floer, who by this time was missing: in the circumstances the gaoler did the only thing possible for him to do, viz., raise the alarm. This he did by communicating with the Central Police Station, and from there prompt orders were issued to all the other police stations to turn out their men to intercept the escaped convict. The detectives responded with promptitude and instituted inquiries at all the shipping offices, searched every steamer leaving and about to leave, in fact did everything in their power to prevent the prisoner from leaving the Settlement. Floer, though a convict, was not attired in prison clothing; he wore a light check suit, brown shoes, soft brown hat and a blue overcoat. His description was circulated to all policemen on duty, who kept a sharp look-out for the man all the night. The Constable Walls of the Hongkong Police Station (all the credit of Floer's capture without a few minutes of one o'clock yesterday morning). The constable himself had never seen Floer before and all the more credit is therefore due to him for his smart piece of work. Floer was proceeding in a ricksha along the Hsien-yuen Road from the Boone Road and was first noticed by Constable Walls as he was passing the Hongkong Fire Station. The hood of the ricksha was up and his suspicions being aroused, the constable ordered the coolie to stop. He then questioned Floer, who did not deny that he was the man wanted, and willingly accompanied his captor to the Hongkong Station where he was at once identified as Paul Floer. He was searched and in his possession the sum of \$12 was found—seven silver dollars in his pocket and a five-dollar bill concealed inside his hat. When he left the Court, Floer is said to have had no money. In the meantime the detective force had been scouring the whole of the settlement for the missing man, while two of his number had journeyed by ricksha to Woosung and there chartered a junk by which they visited the various islands. There was a continual downpour of rain all the night and practically every detective who took part in the search got a thorough drenching.

As to Floer's movements between the time of his escape and his re-capture the reports are somewhat contradictory, but it is probable that after getting clear of his gaoler he went along Peking Road as far as Sizoa Road and then by Carter Road to Bubbling Well Road. Here he appears to have met an acquaintance with whom he had a conversation, afterwards proceeding by way of Mohale Road into French territory, and to find a suitable means of exit from the city by rail so late at night he returned to this side of the Settlement, only to be re-captured. Yesterday morning he was brought up to H.B.M.'s Consulate where it was expected a charge would be laid against him in the police court, but after considerable delay he was handed over once again to the Chief Gaoler who having put on the handcuffs escorted him back to the gaol where, after an investigation, he will be dealt with for a breach of prison discipline.

RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER FLEET.

The order for three ships of 5,100 tons and 16 knots speed, and two of 4,000 tons and 16 knots each, has gone to German builders at a total of ¥5,500,000, one ship to be completed within ten months from date of contract, the other four within twelve months of the same date. The Japanese strove hard to capture the order, but their estimate was ¥7,000,000 higher than the German; and the German secured to certain clauses in the contract which, if it was impossible for the Japanese to comply, they would have to pay a penalty of ¥1,000,000.

THE REVOLT OF WOMAN IN CHINA.

IN CHINA.

The changes that are taking place in the Far East are amazing in their rapidity and completeness. This is proved by the testimony of many witnesses, as readers of the current newspapers and periodicals may easily learn. The suddenness with which the Oriental mind rushes from one extreme to another and follows the light as soon as it appears is amply proved by the last fifty years' history of Japan. But China is not to be left behind. Political, intellectual, and social life are undergoing metamorphosis. Peking has decreed a constitutional government and a house of representatives; the old educational system has been revised by a Chinese *Ritchie*. The exclusive study of the so-called "classics" has given place to a broader system in geography, physics, mathematics, and other branches of a Western curriculum are prominent. This is set forth at some length in a series of articles published by Albert Maybon in *La Revue* (Paris), in the number of which he shows how far reform has invaded Chinese social life and aroused the self-assertion of the teaching sex. This writer records the remark of "many Orientalists" to the effect that:—

"If under the breath of reform the family, which is the essential basis of society, falls to pieces, and modifies its present constitution, we shall then be able to predict the dawn of a new China."

Disintegration, renovation, he proceeds to show, have appeared in the family institution as it has for centuries existed in the Middle Kingdom. During these centuries the daughter was a mere chattel, her feet were crippled and deformed by artificial means; she lived within the walls of the women's apartment, in carelessness and ignorance; she was the object of being consulted as to her choice of a husband. In 1891, we read, Kang-yuen-wei, the leader of the social-reform movement, who has been styled "the modern Confucius," published, as the main principle of his teaching, "Now is the time for a democracy in China wherein the masses take part in the government and the two sexes enjoy equal liberties." Thus he is looked upon as "the founder of Chinese feminism." This movement has since then become organized. An association to promote the preservation of "natural feet" was first instituted by the wife and two daughters of the Viceroy Tuan-Fang. But associations of much more radical character were soon multiplied, declares Mr. Maybon. To quote his words:—

"Such associations are day by day becoming more numerous. Oftentimes, under the pretext of opposing the fashion of 'little feet,' they make it their object to effect a complete reform in the family relations. In a large number of places the young women no longer found a club than they proclaim themselves 'girls who intend to follow their own will.' They take an oath that they will choose their own husbands, and if they think it necessary to their happiness they will rebel against the order of their parents."

These women also take a keen interest in politics, as we learn from the following statement:—

"The feminist propaganda is largely promoted by these associations of women, who now take part in political discussion and furnish a new impulse to political movements. For instance, it was the young women of the province of Che-Kiang who protested at their meetings against obtaining a loan from England to build an important railroad, and proved the sincerity of their words by their deeds, for they immediately invested \$100,000 in the stock of the Chinese company. It is thanks to such societies that the children of widows and the divorced wife, not abandoned, as heretofore, to a lot of misery. Such unfortunate are given new interests in life and furnished with positions in the government offices and in banks or hospitals. Those who are educated are sent to Japan to take up courses of study. If they are without resources they are provided for by their associates."

Even the Government at Peking finds itself compelled to recognize the growing spirit of feminism. One imperial edict has made illegal the mutilation of the feet and another has made the education of girls compulsory. In the words of this document, "The good education of the citizens of the Empire depends upon the good education of our women." And a little farther on we read, "Women as well as men ought to practise a profession. They ought not to pass their life in eating and gossiping without any serious employment."

"There is little of the Asiatic in such terms as these," exclaims Mr. Maybon. It is also a remarkable sign of the times that Chinese women are growing heartily tired of the wearisome and grotesque legends, or the tales of domestic tyranny and intrigue, which their native writers have hitherto supplied them with. They are now reading *Robinson Crusoe*, *Defoe*, and *Memoirs of a Woman of Letters*, with them as with Europeans. Translations of books of travel, French and English, are eagerly bought, and the "Loo-Loo" *Backward* of Bellamy is found in a corner every Chinese boudoir. During the present year two important works of romance by native authors have appeared, one with the significant title "Free Marriage," while the other is "The Stone of Nine-Wa," an apology which makes use of figures in Chinese mythology to ridicule and satirize old Chinese customs, social and religious, and to promote feminism. It is said to be a mixture of Swift and Rabelais in style, and its object is "to awaken the people and to set them on the way to a new order of things." On this subject Mr. Maybon concludes his observations with the words:—

"The old literature is doomed with the social conditions from which it originated. Amid a new society in which the two sexes shall enjoy equal rights, a new literature must arise!" Translation made for *The Literary Digest*.

THE KAWASAKI DOCKYARD.

The vice-president of the Kawasaki Dockyard Company, Kobe, is reported by the *Osaka Jiji* to have said that there is no truth in the rumour that the Company's works will be purchased by the Government owing to the unfavourable condition of the business. At present there is plenty of work on hand in spite of the general financial and trade depression. The vessels under construction at the Dockyard or ordered include two of 8,500 tons each for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha; three for the Osaka Shosen Kaisha; a torpedo-boat destroyer for the Navy and four destroyers for the Government and Tokushima Prefecture. A steam turbine for a battleship building for the Imperial Navy is also being made at the Dockyard. The Company is also engaged in the construction of electric lines, locomotives and bridges for the Imperial Railway Board, the manufacture of a pier for Fusan, and pipes for the Osaka water-works. The number of persons employed by the Company has steadily increased of late years and in every respect it may be regarded as a flourishing concern. The Vice-President also said that the Government was not so zealous of the Dockyard as it had been in the past, and that the construction of five new battleships for the Navy was not so urgent as it had been.

LADY LUGARD "AT HOME"

FUNCTION LARGELY ATTENDED.

The first "At Home" held by Lady Lugard since her return to the Colony took place at Government House last Monday afternoon. As usual the occasion was in every way a complete success. It was very largely attended by a number of British and foreign residents and representative members of the Chinese community. Officers of the Italian cruiser *Regina Elena* and of the German ship *Prinzess Alice* were also present.

A NOTABLE CELEBRATION.

S.S. "KWONG SANG'S" 100TH VOYAGE.

We notice that the well-known coaster, the *Kwong Sang*, lying at the Hongkong and Kowloon's West Point Wharf, is gaily decorated. This is not only emblematic of the festive season, but because she is at present on her one-hundredth regular trip from Shanghai and Swatow to Hongkong and Canton, during which time, she has never, to use a nautical expression, broken a rope. We congratulate the Indo-China S. N. Coy on her performance and wish success to the *Kwong Sang* and her genial commander, Capt. W. P. Baker.

YOKOHAMA DOCK COMPANY.

NEW MOORING BASIN.

In response to invitations issued by the Yokohama Dock Co., Ltd., a large number of foreign and Japanese guests assembled on the company's premises on Saturday afternoon for the opening of the new mooring basin, the construction of which has just been finished. The dimensions of the new mooring basin are: Length 480 feet, width 180 feet and depth 27 feet. The basin was begun in 1906.

A temporary platform had been erected at the head of the basin for the accommodation of the visitors (says the *Japan Herald*) and from there Mr. Asada, the President of the Company, performed the ceremony of admitting the water into the basin. Congratulatory speeches were made by Governor Sufu, Mr. Mitsubashi, the Mayor, and others.

An opportunity was taken by the visitors present to inspect the other new works of the company, including the new dry dock, the construction of which is now in progress.

DAYLIGHT ROBBERY.

MAN AND BOY TIED AND GAGGED AT HUNGKONG.

Loud cries of "Save life," "Robbers," were heard coming from one of the premises in Kowloon Street at Hongkong, last Monday forenoon. An Indian policeman heard the disturbance, which seemed to grow louder every moment, and ran up behind a number of pedestrians, who appeared eager to know what the trouble was about. The crowd came to a halt outside house No. 13, from where the noise came, and the policeman, forcing his way through the gathering mob, rushed up to the first floor. Reaching the landing he found the front door locked from the outside. To force back the bar was only a matter of a few seconds, and when this was done he entered the premises, and found the persons—a man and a lad—the ones who had raised the alarm. The unhappy looking pair, after pointing to pieces of rope and rags which lay in the kitchen at the rear of the house and which were collected by the policeman, were taken to the Hungkong Police Station, where they told the story of their adventure.

"I was sitting in the kitchen chopping firewood about ten o'clock," said the man. "I was alone in the house, the others having gone out and the front door left open. I was chopping for some time when on looking up suddenly I saw a number of men—about four or five—by my side. They seized hold of me and threw me to the floor. Then they bound my hands and feet and finally gagged me."

It was at this time that the lad returned home and, running to the kitchen with the intention of assisting his fellow lodger in cutting the wood, he found the men holding down the friend. Before he could raise courage to shout for help, he was gagged and his hands were bound. The door of the house was then locked by one of the robbers to prevent the further entry of any others, and the house was ransacked, the thieves taking away with them clothing and other valuables to the tune of about \$50. They locked the door behind them when they left.

After struggling for a while the lad succeeded in releasing himself. When this was done he untied his friend, and together they ran to the front door to make for the open. This they found was locked, and as there was no other means of escape they ran to the window and called loudly for assistance. The police happened to make a capture as one or two of the robbers can be recognised.

NEW JAPANESE TORPEDO.

Mr. Shigetaro Yamashita, an engineer in the Nagaura Ordnance Depot, belonging to the Yokosuka Naval Station, has invented a new style of torpedo which, according to the *Japan Times*, will strike what it aims at beyond an island or promontory lying between the point of discharge and the aim. It is so made as to make a circuitous course after striking an intervening obstacle, when it will cause an explosion. The device has been bought by the Navy Office, and the inventor will be given a decoration of the 7th Order.

A "FIND" IN SIAM.

VALUABLE MANUSCRIPT UNearthed.

About a year ago an old MS. was acquired by the Siam National Library, which on examination was found to contain the history of Siam for a period of 557 years from the destruction of Ayudhya in 1767 up to the 1st year of the reign of King Rama V in 1893, says the *Siam Times*.

The MS. is one of peculiar interest differing in many respects from previous records, and when it was submitted to His Majesty the King, he identified the book as a record kept by the sister of King Rama Buddha Yot Fa, the first king of the present dynasty, known as Krom Luang Narai Devi.

It was found to be an exceedingly faithful record of those times and His Majesty was pleased thereupon to write explanatory notes and a commentary on the MS. which was then submitted to the King, and the MS. was placed in the National Library, to which His Majesty was graciously pleased to present it for sale, with the command that the net proceeds of the sale should be added to the fund of the National Library established for publishing books of historical and literary interest.

HOUSEBREAKING ON AN INCREASE.

A WARNING TO HOUSEHOLDERS.

30th ulto.

The number of cases of housebreaking which have occurred in the Colony lately is somewhat amazing. A police-inspector gave our representative this morning to understand the number this year had increased far more than in recent ones. The increase is due according to that authority to the approaching Chinese New Year and also to the increasing number of unemployed in the Colony and those who emigrate daily from Canton.

Yesterday there were no less than six dwelling houses which were broken in by robbers during the absence of the occupants. Most of the things stolen were of very small value, and in only one case did the robbers get away with valuable exceeding \$200 in value. This was in the coolie quarters of a house in Kennedy Road. The cook had, it is presumed, left the place without locking the door, and in his absence the visit was paid, and on his return he found his room in a topsy-turvy condition and a quantity of clothing, a watch and chain, a sovereign, and various other things, valued about \$150, gone.

Of course, in each case the police were informed, but it is only fair to remark that the police, except in a few cases, are able to find the thieves. This can be accounted for—that after the robbery had been committed the goods are taken to Canton and disposed of, and the thief, well off, is able to acquire a new identity. The thieves, to use the inspector's own words, are too wise nowadays to take the loot to pawnshops, for then their capture is assured.

But for the Robinson Pinn Company, where some gramophone records were stolen, and the attempt made to enter Messrs. Dias Brothers' premises in Wyndham Street, there have been no entries to other European shops or dwelling houses, and we are not disposed to warn householders, especially the Chinese, to be careful when leaving their houses, especially when there is a frail lock on the door, to see that everything is safe, "as the police cannot be everywhere at the same time."

REMARKABLE SUICIDE.

LAD JUMPS INTO A CRATER.

Of late years a number of extraordinary forms of suicide have been recorded. A form of self-destruction which seems to be preferred by students disappointed in life is jumping into the crater of a volcano or over a waterfall. A number of suicides have occurred in the crater of Mount Asama, while others have taken place in the Kegon Waterfall. Apparently Mount Asama is losing its seductiveness for the suicide, for we (*Japan Chronicle*) learn that a student has just committed suicide by throwing himself into the crater of Mount Aso, the well-known volcano near Kumamoto. Ito Mienom, the unfortunate young man in question, was a fifth-year student at the Meizen Middle School, near Kumamoto, and it is stated, with great regret, that his rash act is attributed to disappointment at missing the opportunity of becoming an army officer, his age for candidacy having passed.

SUGAR IN JAPAN.

STRUGGLE BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND REFINERS.

Interest in the question of the reimbursement of Customs duty on sugar is growing as the date of the opening of the Diet approaches, and sugar refiners in Japan are exerting themselves to secure a continuance of the measure. On the other hand, says the *Ozaka Jiji*, the Formosan sugar producers, encouraged by their success in influencing the Government during the last session of the Diet when the question was taken up, have begun a movement for the discontinuance of the reimbursement. Baron Goto, who has strongly favoured the policy of protecting the sugar industry in Formosa, is now in the Cabinet. Taking advantage of this circumstance, Formosan sugar men have appealed to the Baron, who in turn is using his influence with the Government. As a result, the Government is wavering in its determination, and is now inclining towards discontinuing the policy of reimbursement, and in all probability a bill for the purpose will be introduced in the Diet. Diminished at this turn of events, sugar refiners in Japan, headed by the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company, have opened a counter-movement.

It may be explained that Formosan sugar enjoys a special privilege (based on no law or regulation) whereby the excise imposed on No. 3 quality is equal to the ordinary rate on No. 1 Formosan sugar thus enjoying an advantage of 35.50 per cent. So far the quantity of Formosan sugar brought to the market has not exceeded 20,000 piculs per annum, and the market of sugar refined in Japan has been little affected. But now that the mills of the Toyo, Taiwan, Meiji, and Ensuji Sugar Refining Companies in Formosa have opened operations it is estimated that over 200,000 piculs a year of Formosan sugar will be imported. If the special privilege in favour of Formosan sugar be continued, it will be very difficult for Japanese sugar refiners to cope with the Formosan product, while if the reimbursement of duty on foreign crude sugar be discontinued, it is declared that the sugar-refining industry in Japan will collapse. The sugar refiners in Japan, who are faced with such a serious problem, are already suffering from over-production, their stocks heavily congesting the market. Usually a brisk sale of sugar is seen in December and January, but this year is proving an exception to the rule, the market continuing very quiet. The opening of the season for arrivals of new Formosan sugar at hand, and the sugar-refining mills in Japan have been forced to get rid of the stock so largely congesting the market.

The *Ozaka Journal* referred to points out that a new question has arisen in connection with the reimbursement of duty. "This is the attempted evasion of Customs duty on Luron sugar at Yokkaichi by the Masuda-ya, a firm in partnership with Messrs. Abe Kogi, both being directors of the Yokohama Sugar Refining Company. This evasion of duty is set at naught by the Government as it is the example of Luron No. 3 quality of Formosan sugar. No. 1 for the sake of protecting Formosan sugar industry, and in this way the evasion of tax on Formosan sugar has been openly and officially allowed. Nothing can be more illogical than this. There is no reason why the Government should sanction the evasion of tax in one case while the private evasion of duty is made illegal. The sugar refiners in Japan are resolved to resist the Government and oppose the discontinuance of the reimbursement of duty, at the same time fighting to the utmost for the withdrawal of the privilege accorded to Formosan sugar. It is believed in some quarters that the attempted evasion of the Customs duty at Yokkaichi by the Masuda-ya may have been a pre-arranged deal between Messrs. Abe and Masuda and other sugar refiners in Japan as the initial step in the fight against the Government sugar monopoly."

SMALL FIST LADY'S PREDICAMENT.

ALLEGED TO HAVE PURCHASED STOLEN PEARLS.

The trial of Li Hing Tong, a silversmith, of 26, Queen's Road Central, Leung Luk, a small-fist woman, residing at 204 of the same name, known as the "stealing thief" of stolen goods, to wit, ten pearls, valued at \$1500, which were alleged to have been stolen by a servant girl (under arrest) who was formerly in the employ of a family at 26, Staunton Street, and supposed to have been sold to them, was mentioned at the Magistracy last Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. J. H. Kemp presided. Mr. C. F. Dixon (for Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) prosecuted. Mr. E. J. Grist (for Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the defence. When proceedings opened, Mr. Dixon said that as the case against the servant girl had been remanded to next week he suggested that this case, too, should be adjourned to the same time when both cases could be taken together as the evidence in both cases was the same.

The Court—Have you any objection to the cases being taken together?

Mr. Grist—No; I think it will be convenient.

The case was remanded until this day week. Bail was allowed in the sum of \$1500 each.

THE JAPANESE BUDGET.

On the morning of December 18 Marquis Katsura, Premier and Financial Minister of Japan, communicated the substance of the Budget for the next fiscal year to the leading members of the House of Peers. The same afternoon the Premier received the leading members of the House of Representatives and made known to them the principal details of the forthcoming Budget. Questions on both occasions were answered by Mr. Wakatsuki, Vice-Minister of Finance. The main details of the Budget, as communicated to the members of both Houses, are as follows:

"In drawing up the Budget for the next fiscal year, the Government made efforts to maintain a balance between the revenue and expenditure, to strengthen the foundations of the national finance, to increase the Empire's financial credit, and to adjust the general financial position of the country. With these purposes in view, it arrived at the following decisions:—

1.—The fixed expenditure shall be met out of the fixed revenue. The expenditure which used to be defrayed from loans shall be met from the ordinary revenue. With the exception of the Formosan Industrial Loan, which is of a special nature, no new loans shall be floated for the time being.

2.—The general expenditure shall be curtailed as much as possible, and no new demands, except those which are absolutely necessary, shall be made. Even the expenditure on enterprises which have already been sanctioned shall be largely curtailed.

3.—The enterprises already sanctioned shall be kept within limits compatible with the national financial capacity. Consequently the periods for the completion of the works and the amounts of the instalments of expenditure shall be altered, the actual progress of the works being taken into consideration.

4.—The sum annually allotted to the sinking fund shall be increased to least Yen 40,000,000 in order to maintain the credit of Japanese Bonds, raise their prices, and protect the interests of their holders, thus exerting a good effect on financial circles in general.

5.—With a view to promoting the success of the railway administration, an independent Railway Account distinct from the general accounts, shall be established."

These decisions were acted upon in the preparation of the Budget, the principal features of which are given below.

	Yen	Y
Ordinary Revenue	470,667,970	
Extraordinary Revenue	45,541,825	
(Of the above Yen 10,754,995 is the surplus from the current fiscal year)		
Total	516,209,795	
Ordinary Expenditure	400,912,102	
Extraordinary Expenditure	115,288,693	
Total	516,200,795	

It will be noted that the revenue and expenditure balance each other. The estimated ordinary revenue for the next fiscal year—which begins in April, 1909—is Yen 470,667,970 in excess of that for the current year, the principal increases being under the heads of taxes (+ Yen 20,327,349), Government Works and Property (+ Yen 6,499,344) and Telegraph and Telephone Services (+ Yen 7,535,825). Forestry and the Salt monopoly, which are under the ordinary revenue which is estimated Yen 98,123,877 less than in 1908-9 shows a decrease of Yen 5,075,814 in money brought forward from current fiscal year and also a decrease of Yen 38,977,116 in loan flotation. Two items only—the sale of Government property (+ Yen 8,454,034) and sums to be recovered on advances made in connection with the Formosan Industrial Loan (+ Yen 100,000) show an increase. The principal increases in ordinary expenditure are to be seen in the War Department (+ Yen 2,283,953), the Navy Department (+ Yen 1,431,329) and Communications (+ Yen 1,431,329). The War Department (+ Yen 2,283,953), the Navy Department (+ Yen 1,431,329) and the Finance Department (+ Yen 7,999,335) and the Navy (+ Yen 9,445,792) are the principal sufferers by the decrease in extraordinary expenditure. The programme mapped out by the Katsura Cabinet postpones public works to the extent of Yen 168,000,000. Work thus postponed is to be subsequently recovered by the equalisation of annual instalments. No public bonds will be floated in 1909-10 except about Yen 200,000 for Formosan Public Works, and public bonds to the amount of Yen 10,000,000 are to be redeemed.—*N. C. D. News.*

ALLEGED CRUELTY TO CATTLE.

CHARGES AGAINST STEAMER'S CAPTAIN.

The complaints of the collector of customs against the cruelty practised on certain cattle shipped in the steamer *Standard* from the China coast to Manila has come to a head by the commencement of proceedings in the Court of First Instance against F. W. Bull, the master of the steamer *Standard* which, on the 27th day of December steamed into Manila with 677 head of cattle without providing suitable means for securing such animals while in transit, so as to avoid cruelty and unnecessary suffering to them.

It is charged that Captain Bull failed to provide stalls for the animals; that and suitable means for tying and securing them. They were tied by their noses and the result was many of them reached Manila dead or dying and others in a mutilated condition. These charges were filed by the prosecuting attorney yesterday, before the *Cebuensis American* of 24th ulto. and Mr. Bull was arrested on a warrant issued by the court and once arraigned.

RACING NOTES.

ARRIVAL OF DERBY GRIFINS.

It will interest your readers to learn that by the China Merchants steamer *Chi-yuen*, which arrived in port from the North last Monday evening, nine racing ponies and two polo ponies were landed.

Seven of the racers, some of them Derby griffins, are consigned to Mr. Toop while Mr. Ellis were in receipt of two—his old pony, Indian Chief, and a Derby griffin. The polo ponies are for Major Palmer.

The animals seem to be in fine fettle. Indian Chief looks his usual, while the Derby griffins, as can only be expected, are high-priced "uns, and may be expected to be fast racers.

As regards the subscription griffins, all that can be said of them is that they are being exercised and some have been given long distances, over which some have come out well, but there are one or two which, so far, I am afraid of.

My next writing and a long one will appear after the New Year, which I hope all my readers will spend joyfully, as will your humble servant.

RIDING BOY.

DISEASE AMONG CATTLE.

OUTBREAK AT POKFULUM.

The following letter from Mr. Adam Gibson, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, was laid on the table at a special meeting of the Sanitary Board which was held last Tuesday afternoon:

Sanitary Department,
28th December, 1908.

Sir,—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that foot and mouth disease has appeared in Nos. 11 and 12 sheds belonging to the Dairy Farm Company at Sarscott's Villa, Pokfulum Road.

The two sheds form together one building divided only by a partition.

The sheds contain seventeen cows and three are infected.

I beg therefore to recommend that sheds Nos. 11 and 12 be declared infected areas under By-law 12 of the Importation and Inspection of Animals. By-laws in Schedule B of Ordinance 1 of 1903-1908.

I have, etc.,
ADAM GIBSON,
Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

The Secretary,
Sanitary Board.

The sheds in question were declared infected areas.

JAPANESE SUBSIDIES.

Now that so much discussion is going on with regard to the question of subsidies to steamship services, it is interesting, the *Japan Mail* remarks, to note exactly what this country is actually paying out that account. The following are the figures:—

Service.	Yen.	Company.
European	2,574,000	N.Y.K.
Seattle	654,000	do.
San Francisco	1,010,000	T.Y.K.
Australia	425,000	N.Y.K.
Adjacent Eastern Seas	530,000	do.
Hakodate-Saghalien	150,000	do.
Tairen	140,000	O.S.K.
Hokkaido-Vladivostok	125,000	do.
Yamaguchi	800,000	Nissan

It appears to us very probable, our Yokohama contemporary observes, that, in the case of some of the above services, the Government will give the companies concerned the option of having their subsidies reduced or adding to their lines without any addition to the subsidies. In both cases the companies would receive less in practice, for either their subvention would be cut down or they would have to work harder to earn it. Of course, in addition to the above figures there are the sums paid by the Treasury for encouraging navigation and shipbuilding, but as the laws providing for these payments have still some years to run, there is no pressing necessity to consider them now.

THE RECENT RIOTS.

PEACE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE SUSPENDED.

In a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* issued last Monday forenoon, it is notified that His Excellency the Governor being satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the preservation of the public peace to continue in force the proclamation issued under the authority of The Peace Preservation Ordinance, 1885, which was published in the *Government Gazette Extraordinary* of November 3rd, 1908, has been pleased to direct that the said proclamation should be cancelled and the same is hereby cancelled.

THE KEYSONE OF CHINO-JAPANESE CORDIALITY.

The Tokyo *Asahi* is jubilant over the improvement of relations between China and Japan by the appointment of a popular Minister to Peking, and in consequence of the spontaneous expression of sympathy for China's national calamity and anxiety for her national welfare in the disturbing moments. The paper has never seen reason for the discord between the two Powers resulting to the benefit of Japan. On the contrary, their relations have steadily improved since Japan's disinterested offices at the time of the Boxer trouble, until the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese alliance and the formation of an agreement with Russia for the maintenance of the status quo in Manchuria have been effected and the peace in the Far East and on the Pacific has been assured. The paper would improve and cement further this cordial relation by the abolition of import tax on rice, as China shows signs of willingness of abolishing the levy on exported rice. The matter cannot be strongly objected to by the land-owners of this country, as they are enjoying at present an easy time, and it will certainly be welcomed by the rest of the people; the levy has been unfavourably affecting their condition of living. The reform will be the immediate opening for economic community of interest between the two Powers which should now form the basis of their closer union.

OPIUM CONFERENCE.

Rev. E. W. Thwing was one of the passengers arriving in Hongkong by the s.s. *Asia* from Manila. He has been appointed by the Governor of Hawaii to represent the Territory at the Shanghai Opium Conference, as Hawaii also has an opium problem to settle. A Honolulu paper speaks of Mr. Thwing's work as follows:—

The International Reform Bureau of Washington, D. C., has invited Rev. E. W. Thwing of Honolulu to represent that body at the Shanghai opium conference, as its special secretary for China. He will secure leave of absence from his work, as superintendent of Chinese missions in Hawaii, and go to China to aid in this great movement.

Mr. Thwing plans the latter part of his year, to visit some of the largest cities of China, and address gatherings of Chinese, and find out the exact condition of the present opium reform movement.

Two of the three Chinese Commissioners to the International Opium Conference, Tsoai Liu Yü-lin and Mr. Tong Kai-sun, are already in Shanghai and are in charge of the arrangements for the Conference. According to present plans the Conference will hold its sittings in the Palace Hotel, where the majority of the foreign delegates will also stay. The *N. C. D.* understands that the services of Prince Kung, whose name has been mentioned as the titular head of the Chinese Commission, cannot be dispensed with in Peking, but the Chinese Government will probably give an earnest of its appreciation of the Conference's deliberations by entrusting to Viceroy Tuan Fang the task of welcoming the other Commissioners and of opening formally the Conference.

ACCIDENT TO A TORPEDO-BOAT.

The torpedo-boat *Kiji*, which has just been repaired at Yokosuka, met with an accident in the course of a speed trial on the 17th ultimo in Tokyo Bay. A boiler joint gave way, and the steam poured forth in such volume that one man was scalded to death, three others receiving injuries, one of a serious nature. The torpedo-boat was disabled and was towed to Yokohama by a steamer belonging to the Tokyo Bay Steamship Company.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION IN CANADA.

A clever and far-reaching scheme for defrauding the Canadian revenue has been laid bare by the Controller of Chinese Immigration in Canada. Within the last twelve months a large number of young Chinamen have been allowed to land at the Eastern ports, without paying the £100 head-tax, on the plea supported by apparently unimpeachable evidence that they were merchants, scientific men, or tourists. It now appears that the vast majority have gained admittance to the Dominion on false pretences. Of 280 immigrants who escaped the tax at Montreal and Halifax, only 15 were actually entitled to exemption. Altogether, the loss to the Exchequer is estimated at £30,000. The Department is convinced that a syndicate is at the bottom of the business. Mr. E. O'Hara, after he became Controller of Immigration in August last, went to Vancouver to look into the methods of inspection there, where the influx of the yellow aliens is largest. Out of 300 or 400 new comers a mere handful would escape the tax. This made him all the more suspicious of the Chinese who came in at Montreal and Halifax under the exemption clause. Accordingly, when fourteen young Celestials landed at Montreal the other week, all armed with the familiar credentials, they were met by the Controller, who, by one of the ruses in the Mong Kow. One by one they were led out and questioned, and in a frightened and incoherent manner each told very much the same story. They had been in Mexico five or six months, but as times were dull they had done so business. None of the new comers possessed more than £4, and when reminded that this was scant capital for a merchant, each produced what purported to be a draft. These documents were drawn in Chinese characters on plain yellow paper by the Woy Fung Bank, Mexico, and the Chief Controller of New York, the latter name meaning literally, "Face to Face We Know It." The amounts ranged from £96 to £300, and the holders stated that the drafts would be honoured by a Chinese firm in Montreal. The firm in question, however, knew nothing about the business, and expressed a desire not to get mixed up with the affair.

THE FORMOSAN ABORIGINES.

PROGRESS OF REPRESSIVE MEASURE.

A telegram from the Governor-General of Formosa dated the 17th ultimo says:—"Eight groups of aborigines belonging to the Kakia-ko tribe in the district under the jurisdiction of Gimpa prefecture, have been blockaded for many years, and have at length had their supply of salt cut off. Pressed by the advance of the defence line of Taiwan since April last, the difficulties of the tribe were aggravated, and on several occasions they offered to surrender. But the authorities, doubting their sincerity, apparently, have ordered them to surrender the human heads taken as trophies as a token of their willingness to surrender. On the 16th ultimo 600 of the aborigines, including the chiefs, came down the hill to the guard station at Nan-o and surrendered 20 rifles and 151 skulls as ordered. Their offer to surrender was provisionally accepted after a promise had been received that they would no longer resist."

A Taipei dispatch to the *Asahi* states that the force sent to suppress the revolt Kwaranko, reinforced by 800 of the subdued aborigines, attacked the headquarters and burnt the houses of the Shichikayaku tribe during the night of the 16th, capturing 3,000 koku of rice and millet and 30 fresh human heads. The chief of the tribe has been captured at Kwaranko. The reinforcements of troops sent from Taipei arrived at Kwaranko on the 17th and those sent from Taiwan were expected to arrive on the 18th. It has been arranged to accomplish the suppression of the revolting tribe in one action upon the arrival of the whole of the troops sent—*Japan Chronicle*.

CASAWAYS.

The *Batavia*, Capt. Stewart, brought into Singapore last week, and several castaways picked up off Bering Sea (says the *Malayan Bank*). Their story is that six men and two children started from Assam, Deli, in a native prahu and were captured in a squall. They succeeded, all but one man, who was drowned, in getting on a darrer Chinese kotta, and were then picked up by the *Batavia* and brought on to Polan, Batavia. A collection by the officers and crew made sufficient to give them \$5 each, which was sent back to their country and sent to the world again.

SHANGHAI SENSATION.

FLOOR AGAIN.

The drama which has been enacted within the last few weeks in Shanghai in which Paul Floor has taken the principal part all but developed into a tragedy yesterday, reports the *Shanghai Mercury* of 24th ulto. Thrice tried by jury and twice convicted, the second time receiving one of the severest sentences pronounced on a foreigner locally for a long time, Floor seemed to have exhausted the usual nine days' wonder, and after his escape and recapture was scarcely likely to give Shanghai anything more to talk about. Yesterday, however, he added to the sensations connected with his name by making a determined attempt to commit suicide, unsuccessful only through the vigilance of those in charge of the British Gaol. Floor was suffering from an injury to one of his legs, and the bandage which covered the sore gave him the means whereby he almost took his own life. The warders had been keeping a strict watch upon the prisoner and between their watch, Floor evidently had unowned the bandage, and twisting it round his neck suspended himself from the bars of the cell window. In this as in the rest of his doings recently the fates were against him, and though he hung a considerable time the gaolers were keeping too close a watch and before life was extinct they had paid another visit to the cell. Floor was immediately cut down, and in view of his condition, which seemed precarious, medical assistance was called to be summoned. The whole animation was successful, and Floor is now quite restored to health. In view of the length of his sentence it is not improbable that he may have to go to Hongkong.

PRAISE TO THE POLICE.

In connection with the recent trial and conviction of Floor on the charge of arson, in which both Detective-Inspector McDowell and Detective-Sergeant Vaughan had many difficulties to contend with in gathering evidence, Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, Acting Judge of H.B.M.'s Supreme Court, appreciated the work of the two officers to such an extent that he has addressed a letter to Lt. Col. C. D. Bruce, Capt. Supt. of the S.M. police, in which he highly commends the work done by the detectives. He goes on to say that he has been very pleased at the efficient manner in which the difficult task of evidence in the Floor arson case was worked out by Det. Inspector McDowell and Det. Sgt. Vaughan of the detective department of the S.M.P. He was also very pleased at the clever manner in which the officers concerned performed their difficult duty which was done with great discretion and efficiency.

NEW JAPANESE LINER.

S.S. "HIRANO MARU" IN PORT.

With the arrival here last Monday of the new N. Y. K. twin screw steamer *Hirano Maru*, one of six water ships built and building by the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Co. of Kobe and the Mitsui Bishi Dockyard, Nagasaki, Hongkong residents have an opportunity of seeing a most up to date passenger steamer. The new vessel, which was launched at Nagasaki on the 21st April, is commanded by Captain H. Fraser, one of the "oldest" commanders in the Company's service, and he has every reason to be proud of his handsome craft, which is designed for the European service, and is now making her maiden voyage. The vessel has been built in accordance with the Imperial Japanese Government shipbuilding encouragement law and is classed as too A. 1 at Lloyd's, and is modelled on modern principles with every convenience necessary for a first class passenger liner. The general comfort of passengers has been kept in view throughout and leaves nothing to be desired. There is accommodation for fifty-eight first class, twenty-eight second class, twelve special and one hundred and forty stowage passengers, while there is also special accommodation for twenty-five first class and several third class passengers. All the cabins are neatly and costly fitted up, and the decorations and fittings are of the latest design and of a first class nature. The saloon is a splendid apartment and is well lighted and ventilated. The smoking room, social hall, drawing room, music room, barber's shop, dark room for amateur photographers, etc. are all that could be wished for, and in addition there is a fully equipped surgery with all the latest appliances can be treated. The laundry, gallery, pantries, bakery, etc. are models. The latrines and baths, showers, etc. are also a feature of the vessel. She is fully supplied with fire fighting appliances, life boats, rafts, belts, etc., and the latest designs of navigating instruments are carried. The cargo space is ample and for the handling of heavy weights she has four large derricks and cranes, one of which is capable of lifting forty tons. The following are the dimensions of the vessel:—Length 480 feet 2 inches; moulded 465 feet; breadth, 55 feet; depth, 32 feet 6 inches; tonnage gross, 8,770 tons; horse power, 7,300; speed sixteen knots. She has three decks and her propelling machinery is of the latest and best description. She is built entirely of steel and

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ing the crops, also affected the market to some degree. At Saigon old crop cargo was getting scarce and rates to Hongkong dropped to 8 cents per picul. At the beginning of the month Saigon to Java was 11 to 12 cents. Later on, however, rates rose to 13 and 14 cents, at which a small number of steamers found employment. Polo Laut to Hongkong was done at \$2.25, and to Kohichang at \$2.50. The inquiry, however, remained idle with very little inquiry. Haiphong to Canton being fixed at \$1.60, and Moji to Swatow at \$1.40. By the middle of the month so much idle tonnage had accumulated that a sudden large inquiry for tonnage which set in from Saigon to Hongkong merely had the effect of bringing the rate up to 14 cents, at which quite a number of boats were closed. A couple of charters were also effected for consecutive voyages, commencing February, at 16 and 17 cents to Hongkong with opium of Canton at 19 cents. To the Philippines, a better inquiry set in, and rates rose to 23 and 25 cents, in one instance to 27 cents, and speculators began thinking that the market would improve sufficiently to allow them to take boats on time with a profit.

A SPECULATIVE VENTURE.

February opened quietly in all directions with the exception of Saigon to Hongkong where the inquiry was well maintained and quiet number of boats were taken up at rates ranging between 14 and 16 cents per picul. To the Philippines, rates also improved a little, 26 to 28 cents being obtainable, and some fixtures were concluded at 14 and 15 cents to Java, while Saigon to Singapore, in one instance, was done on the basis of 16 cents per picul. The anticipation that rice freights would rise to the same level as in the previous year, induced speculative steamship agents to fix a two-thousand tonner at \$4,700 for 4 option 6 months. The result of the venture, however, ultimately turned out a complete failure, the market after Chinese New Year was depressed, and the unfavourable exchange influenced the Bangkok market and no business was done in this direction to Hongkong and Singapore, and even the liners found difficulty in getting full cargoes. Coal freights were neglected, \$1.25 being top rate from Moji to Hongkong. Wakamatsu to Canton was done at \$1.90 and from Luban to Hongkong \$1.75 was paid, while a fixture took place at \$1.60 from Kuchisato to Singapore and another at \$1.75 to Hongkong.

MAINTAIN OF THE MARKETS.

Rice freights from Saigon to Hongkong continued to be the mainstay of the markets during the first half of March. The inquiry, however, gradually subsided, owing to the fall in the price of the commodity at Hongkong, and freights which had crawled up to 16 cents again went down, the rate at the end of the month dropped to 13 cents with scant inquiry, as compared with 19 and 20 cents for the corresponding period in the previous year. Philippine freights kept steady at 15 to 18 cents for rice, 16 to 30 cents for two ports, according to the size of the cargoes. Cent rates no longer gave a correct idea of this market, as steamers employed in the Philippines could not secure full cargoes, 15 piculs being a fair average of the cargoes shipped and 10,000 piculs a fair average size of the steamers employed. Formerly, the average size of the cargoes used to be some 20,000 piculs, and this is still a favourite size at the beginning of the year when the cargo is wet, but the gradual withdrawal of such steamers from the Southern market has, as stated, had the tendency of increasing the cargo and it is expected that in time to come the average will increase to 25 to 30 piculs. The better inquiry at present, Saigon to Java was quiet and only one boat, which secured 24 cents, was fixed in this direction. The first fixture of the season was effected from Newchwang to Canton. The opening rate of 30 cents for port cargo, with liberty to complete at Chaofo for owner's benefit, could not, however, be maintained, and at the end of the month 23 and 26 cents were accepted. Chaofo and Yangtze River ports came in the market to Canton, with the result that many of the regular liners, which owing to lack of cargo had been thrown on the open market, again found employment in this direction. The opening of Tientsin helped to improve matters, and Bangkok also came into the market; several of the regular liners which, owing to lack of cargo, had been employed in the Saigon, Hongkong and Singapore trade were again put on the berth, as were a few outsiders at 27 cents inside the bar and 20 cents outside. A perceptible improvement was shown in coal freights, and rates rose to \$1.50 Moji/Hongkong, \$2.25 Wakamatsu/Canton, \$1.35 Kanton/Canton, \$3 Polo Laut/Kohichang and \$3 from Hongkong to Canton, several orders being replaceable owing to lack of suitable tonnage. The Java market was, however, very dull, with little inquiry, no more than 20 cents being obtainable.

A DISCOURAGING EXCEPTION.

Taken on the whole April, which under ordinary circumstances should have been one of the best months of the year, this year proved a discouraging exception to the rule. Coal freights were, however, well maintained. Moji to Swatow being done at \$1.15, Hongkong to Canton at \$1.80, and from Kanton to Hongkong \$2.70 was paid, coal from Japan, during the whole of the year. From Polo Laut to Kohichang a boat was fixed at \$1. Owing to the unsatisfactory despatch given, and the heavy expenses for discharge, coupled with the usual difficulty of getting return cargoes, these Kohichang freights are generally neglected. However, in full times like those which we have passed through, and are paid in the matter, and, as a rule, have to be satisfied with what they can obtain. The regular liners were kept fully employed in the Yangtze to Canton and Swatow trades at fair rates. More business was done from Newchwang, Dally and Chaofo, at rates ranging between 25 and 26 cents per picul, and several of the regular liners got full cargoes from Dally to Swatow at the good rate of 30 cents per picul. Bangkok took some vessels on the berth at 27 cents and 20 cents outside, and a boat was later fixed for a partaking downward cargo for their benefit. This improved rate was, however, only obtainable through owners giving exceptionally long lay-days. By the end of the month the Bangkok market again collapsed. Some business was done from Annam with cattle to Manila at fair rates, but Java to Hongkong freights which were quoted nominally at 18 cents in the first half of the month, no outside tonnage was taken in this direction. A limited inquiry set in from Saigon to Java, and fixtures were done at 23 and, later on, at 25 and 27 cents. Freight from Saigon to Hongkong dwindled down from 15 to 12 cents, and only one fixture took place to the Philippines, where stocks had now accumulated, so that a temporary stop was put to further shipments.

TEAN MARKET COLLAPSE.

A small number of steamers found employment in the Saigon to Hongkong trade in the early part of May. Freight was, however, weaker in sympathy with the Saigon to Hongkong market, where the inquiry was very limited, and rates did not in any instance exceed 23 cents, most of the fixtures to Hongkong being at 20 and 18 cents. Only one charter was con-

cluded to Singapore, and a small handy steamer secured a cargo of sugar from Iloilo to Yangtze. Idle tonnage started to accumulate in Hongkong, and the order of the day was to get up North by hook or by crook, the Northern market, bad as it was, being considered better than the one down here, especially as no improvement could be expected in any of the local trades. The Wuh to Swatow trade, rates of freight from Newchwang to Southern ports declined, and during the whole of the month, only one boat was fixed to Canton. The berth rates from Bangkok to Hongkong were lowered to 25 inside and 18 cents outside the bar, less the usual heavy commissions and rebates, but no outside tonnage was taken up. The Java market was also a failure, nothing being done to Hongkong, and such miserable rates as 8 to 9 to 9 1/2 per ton were actually accepted by Japanese tonnage from the North coast ports to Japan. The inquiry for coal tonnage also abated, and rates dropped from \$1.50 to \$1.35 Moji to Hongkong, from \$1.80 to \$1.40 Hongkong to Canton, and from \$2.40 to \$2.10 from Wakamatsu to Canton.

STEAMERS LAID UP.

The result of the whole situation was that considerable tonnage was laid up, tonnage aggregating some 400,000 piculs, having accumulated at Hongkong by the early part of June. Several of the Bangkok liners which were taken off the berth were fixed from Saigon to Hongkong, where in the latter part of the month, a sudden demand sprang up, owing to reports of extensive damage to the Canton district crops through floods, and a number of boats were again employed in this direction. However, owing to an over-abundance of tonnage, rates were only brought up to the miserable level of 14 cents. Saigon to Japan was done in two instances at 15 cents per picul, these being for only fixtures in this direction. Large tonnage from Saigon to Java on spec, for July, August and September shipments; these cargoes, later on, were taken over by the liners, who, we understand, again sublet them to owners, the owners, we presume, in this way having to pay accumulated commissions on reduced rates. The Java and Bangkok markets continued in the same dull state, and outside fixtures were doing little or nothing. A few orders came in the market from Newchwang and Tientsin to Canton; rates, however, declined to 21 and 20 cents per picul for part cargoes. Coal freights practically remained stationary, the tendency being a retrogressive one so far as the rates were concerned, and Saigon to Philippine business also showed further signs of weakness, freights declining to the basis of 20 cents per picul for full cargoes.

A SHORT-LIVED SPURT.

The inquiry from Saigon to Hongkong which had sprung up so suddenly, as suddenly subsided, and for the whole of July only five charters took place in this direction. To the Philippines, a limited trade was done at about 19 to 21 cents per picul, and Java, which this year is reported to have taken some 100,000 tons of Saigon rice, came in the market, 20 cents being paid for a handy vessel. Nothing was done from Java to Hongkong and Japan outside of the regular liners, which suffered practically the whole of the year from lack of sufficient cargo in both directions. Coal freights from Japan to Java which formerly were quite numerous, are now very seldom in the market. The Australian, Bengal, Polo Laut, etc. coal liners, which used to come to the market, have evidently having doubt the Japanese coal market, no doubt the bulk of this year's sugar cargo was sold to the United States, which imported huge quantities of Java sugar owing to the failure of the crop in Cuba. These large shipments materially helped to remove from the coast some of the large comers which had come out with bunkers for the American Fleet, and but for such sugar freights the homeward market which was then in a miserable condition, would undoubtedly have broken down entirely. Seabell, our carrier at the rate of \$1 per ton, took a cargo to proceed from Hongkong in ballast, this fixture was naturally anything, but brilliant, however, in time to come, be a place of some importance for steamers discharging at Iloilo and Cebu and waiting return cargoes in the direction of Hongkong, Saigon, Singapore, etc. and Sandakan, where the Coal Company store Seabell's bunkers may also compete with Labuan as a coaling station for such boats. From the latter a steamer was fixed to Swatow at \$1.15. Moji freights declined to \$1.30 and \$1.25, and other freights from Japan in comparison. Polo Laut to Kohichang was done at \$2.35; Hongkong to Canton at \$1.45, and a few vessels found employment from Bangkok on berth terms, rates remaining on the former unsatisfactory level. Newchwang freights were few and far between, 20 cents being paid for a cargo of space, and taken altogether, the month was as unsatisfactory from an owner's point of view as the predecessor, further tonnage being laid up at Hongkong and other coast ports.

Dullest Month in the Year.

August lived up to its bad reputation as being one of the dullest months of the year, no owners had a hand to get in the employment, more boats being added to the fleet of laid-up vessels. Saigon freights rapidly declined, and by the end of the month 9 cents was accepted by the liners. Philippine freights also declined, but there were more orders in this direction than could have been expected, and it was only due to the abundance of tonnage offering that freights could not be improved upon, 19 and 20 cents for full cargoes being the top of the market. To Java some fixtures took place at 20 cents per picul, this being the usual rate for these cargoes. To Kobe 21 cents was accepted in order to bring a vessel up North, this being the lowest freight paid in this direction during the whole year. Coal freights were decidedly worse, rates dropping some 20 to 30 cents per ton, and nothing was done from Newchwang, the Yangtze, Java or Bangkok for outsiders. Forward chartering took place from Saigon to Java at rates ranging between 20 and 21 cents for September, October and November shipments, and a steamer found employment from Saigon to Singapore at reduced rates. Some more cattle business came to pass; otherwise everything was as quiet as it could possibly be.

STAMPED TO THE NORTH.

The general dullness experienced in August continued during September, and rates dropped still further, Saigon to Hongkong actually being done at the ridiculous rate of 5 cents per picul, and, even at this rate full cargoes could not be obtained. A few fixtures took place to the Philippines on the basis of 19 cents and no outsiders were required from Bangkok whilst Newchwang took only one boat during its month. Under these circumstances, and reports from the Northern market being bright—a good Yangtze crop being expected—the general stampede to the North continued, boats taking practically anything to get away from the South. Coal freights remained idle, Moji to Hongkong being done at \$1.35, or about 10 cents more than what owners accepted in the London market. From Hongkong to Penang \$2.75 was accepted, which would have been comparatively good business.

had the despatch at Penang not been so bad and the chances of securing return cargo not so miserable, a handy timber steamer was fixed from Saigon to Hongkong; the rate obtained was, however, on a lower basis than previous fixtures.

A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT.

October saw a slight improvement in so far that quite a number of vessels found employment in the Wuh to Swatow trade owing to trouble having arisen between the shippers and the regular liners, and several steamers which were laid up at Hongkong and other places went North to enter into this trade. Owing to the number of boats competing, rates did not, however, reach a satisfactory level, and the Southern market remained as dull as ever. Several steamers were taken up on time charter basis for sale business, and large quantities came forward for shipment from ports in the Bay of Pechili. As the steamers have to load in open roadsteads, this chartering is not desirable, except where fixed lay-days can be arranged. It may be mentioned that the production of salt in China has now reached some 10,000 tons per annum of which about half is produced in the vicinity of Tientsin, and the balance in Hainan. A large inquiry set in from Newchwang and Tientsin, and rates rose from 21 to 25 cents per picul to Canton, many owners being unwilling to bring their vessels into a cut de sac by accepting business in this direction, so that for a time, the demand actually exceeded the supply, this showing that, should any large inquiry set in, either up North or down South, freights are bound to rise. Several fixtures were taken up by one of the liners, which is the lowest one on record since the commencement of the rice trade, between Japan, China and Hongkong. Philippine freights fell from 19 cents to 17 cents per picul, and coal freights also declined, \$1.20 being taken from Moji to Hongkong, and \$1.30 from Hongkong to Hongkong.

SHIPPERS' BOYCOTT.

The boycott instituted by the shippers against the regular liners not having ended, a number of outside steamers were again chartered from Wuh to Swatow during the month of November, and Newchwang also took further tonnage at rates ranging between 21 and 26 cents. At the close of the Newchwang season, several orders were left untouched owing to lack of steamers in suitable positions. Only one fixture took place from Saigon to Hongkong, the rate obtained being 8 cents per picul, and nothing was done to Japan and Java, while only 2 boats were fixed to the Philippines, the rates being based on about 17 cents per picul for full cargo. A few fixtures came to pass for cargo from Annam to Manila, but Bangkok and Java required no outside tonnage in a northerly direction. Quite a number of coal fixtures took place. However, freights obtained left much to be desired; thus \$1.25 was accepted from Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.25 to Swatow and \$1.40 to Canton, and Moji to Hongkong was done at \$1.30 to \$1.35.

A DEAD CALM.

The position of the freight market is the last fortnight of the year is tersely summarized by Messrs. Lamke & Rogge, shipbrokers, in the following terms:—"There is no improvement in freights, and as far as the South is concerned, the situation may be termed a 'dead calm' whilst Northern business is generally becoming more and more dismal with rates steadily receding. Under these circumstances it seems strange that there should be one trade in existence, for the accommodation of which sufficient tonnage cannot be readily found, and where charterers indeed have had to agree to an advance on previous rates of 25% and over, to cover urgent requirements. This has, however, actually happened in connection with coal chartering from Japan to Hongkong and is in the main due to a large ship tramp stock. The rate from Moji, which during the whole of the year fluctuated with very low limits, has of a sudden jumped to \$1.70 per ton, and a boat from Muroran even obtained \$2.50. From Saigon for prompt loading only one fixture is on record, viz., a Singapore tramp ship figure, and very little fresh business is likely to come off until the new grain is fit for export. As to the coming harvest in India, China, judging from latest mail advices, it promises to be a good one, but the play of the 'wild card' is a satisfactory spring business may be looked to. The first shipments of new grain will likely be made towards the end of January."

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

For the future prospects we turn again to Mr. B. Asgaard, the principal of the Norwegian firm to whom we are indebted for the information we are enabled to place before our readers. That gentleman states that, with any certainty when our Eastern freights will take during the coming year, but no extraordinary events cause a rise in the market, we rather anticipate that freights, while slowly trending upwards, will drag along much in the same unsatisfactory way as during the last two years, with occasional spurts in between, when good rates will be obtained.

"At the moment quite a number of orders have come into the market for 6 to 10 consecutive months commencing in January and February from Saigon to Hongkong, option Singapore, at 17 cents per picul, option Canton 10 cents, option Philippines 21 cents, and, as the Saigon crop promises exceedingly well, we understand that merchants intend chartering several boats on time charter for this trade. We do not, however, expect any sort of set in until China New Year, which falls on the 22nd of January, and, until then, rates will undoubtedly fall low both up North and down South, but, having taken into consideration the fact that the usual cargo capacity, this being the usual rate for these cargoes, To Kobe 21 cents was accepted in order to bring a vessel up North, this being the lowest freight paid in this direction during the whole year. Coal freights were decidedly worse, rates dropping some 20 to 30 cents per ton, and nothing was done from Newchwang, the Yangtze, Java or Bangkok for outsiders. Forward chartering took place from Saigon to Java at rates ranging between 20 and 21 cents for September, October and November shipments, and a steamer found employment from Saigon to Singapore at reduced rates. Some more cattle business came to pass; otherwise everything was as quiet as it could possibly be."

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

The year 1900 has been a very bad one for the stock markets, for which the causes mentioned at the close of 1907, have been mainly responsible. Although the rate of discount in London came down to its normal point again, and the rate of exchange dropped considerably, very little money has been brought out from home. Our local Bank, however, has been doing a good business, and shares in that concern have appreciated considerably. Marine insurance stocks have suffered from bad trade and it was only during the latter part of the year that the heavy drop in some of the stocks has somewhat recovered. Fire insurance shares laid quiet most part of the year, only Clappa improving towards the latter part of the year. Shipping shares, as could be expected, have suffered as well, and most of the stocks closed weak. Docks, ruled dull, and Wharves had a severe further slump. Reviewing the stocks as they appear on the list, we find Hongkong and Shanghai Banks, which opened at \$54 at the beginning of the year, have dropped to \$50, and a decided upward movement commenced, and at the end of June they stood at \$50 rising to \$70 just before the half-yearly dividend time. A further upward course was followed, until \$85 was reached, the stock closing with small sellers at \$84. Of Marine Insurance Shares, United Commercial was the principal attraction. Rates rose to \$80 in

March, 1897, and in April, and remained fairly steady up to the end of July, when a slight depression set in, as numerous selling orders came into the market, and causing rates to recede to \$74 1/2 at end of August, when another sort set in, and as high as \$80 has been paid since, market closing with sellers at \$84. China Traders being a dependency of the "Union", have not been dealt in and are more or less unchanged, hardly any shares being on offer or wanted. North China did not fluctuate much, during the first 3 months, the rate varying between \$1.87 and \$1.95, but at end of March a slight fall occurred, shares quoting \$1.81 (and \$1.78 ex div.) at the beginning of May; this price was maintained till end of August, when an upward movement set in, the rate advancing gradually to \$1.95, which is the closing rate. Yangtze shares fluctuated between \$1.75 and \$1.67, closing at latter rate. Cantons have been quiet, going back from \$2.15 to \$2.00 just before the dividend time, in October, when the price advanced to \$2.15 but up to \$1.95 has been paid since.

Fire Insurance Shares.—Hongkong's remained steady for the first 3 months, the price ruling between \$350 and \$355. After the dividend was paid in March, the stock stood at \$355 and moved gradually to \$335, when a slight reaction set in, down to \$335 being accepted, which is the closing rate. China, which opened at \$95, rose to \$98 just before dividend time; immediately after payment of same they stood at \$89, and then gradually fell till they now stand at \$85. It is said that both Companies had a good year, losses being small.

Shipping Shares.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao's have not fluctuated much, and close at about the same price as they opened, viz., \$21; this Company has been doing very well and it is rumored that a bonus might be paid to the shareholders at next meeting. Indo-China ruled very weak, and have followed a downward course all year round; the opening quotation was \$68, and they closed at \$54. This is not to be wondered at, as freights on the coast have been derided at, and China and Manila have been a more or less neglected quantity and rates have not changed much, the closing rate being \$13 1/2, against \$15 at the beginning of the year. Douglases have also undergone some little change; on 1st January, they stood at \$39, and now the rate is \$32. Star Ferries rose from \$24 and \$24 1/2 to \$32 and \$31 1/2, but during the year, the remainder of the year, they stood at \$34 per old and \$35 per new. Shell Transport ruled between \$40 and \$45 and close at \$47; this Company has been doing well, paying shareholders 3 shillings dividend per share against 1 shilling for the preceding years, and a further rise is quite on the tapis. Union Waterboats fluctuated between \$10 and \$12, closing at \$10.

Refineries.—China Sugars, as foreboded in our last year's review, improved from \$100 to \$137, but could not maintain the quotation, and close with sellers at \$114 1/2; it is difficult to find out what the Company has been doing, but it must be borne in mind that a debt balance of \$50,000 has to be paid off, before a dividend can be available. The low exchange, however, must have helped the Company in some way in the disposal of the stocks, carried over from the previous year, as new imports of raw sugar cost much more. Luzons have been dabbled in now and then, the stock rising from \$10 to \$22, and closing at \$18 1/2; unless the American Government send its way to United States, the sale of the Company's output cannot amount to much. Charbonnages appreciated from \$50 to \$50, and remain in strong demand, but hardly any shares are offered in China and the Company is doing well. Ravus fluctuated between \$7 and \$9, and close with sellers at \$9. The crushing this year show an improvement, and the next accounts ought to show a much more prosperous outlook, as the Company will be free from debt. Chinese Engineering shares ruled between \$15 and \$16, the Company's continuance to improve, as the cost of coal and sales are larger than last year.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Although the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company has been doing a steady business, enabling the usual dividend of \$4 for the half-year being paid in February and August last, the stock has, a few speculative movements excepted, fallen slightly as compared with the rate ruling at the beginning of the year, and the rate closes at \$90 sellers. The working of the company, all that can be desired, and the fear of opposition has been a buttressing influence on the market. Fenwick's, as well as New Amoy Docks, require no special mention. Shanghai Docks have not been favoured lately, and judging from the fact that only the usual interim dividend of \$1.25 per share has been announced, are not likely to recover, unless they are enabled to sell part of their following property. Hongkong and Canton Docks have suffered from falling off of trade, and the Company being obliged to employ part of their staff, to effect economies. We hear, however, that the November and December workings have been more satisfactory. Rates have fluctuated; against the quotation of \$55 at the beginning of the year, the present quotation is, only \$45. No interim dividend has been paid, and it is rumored that no dividend at all will be available for the year.

Mining Shares.—The working of the company, all that can be desired, and the fear of opposition has been a buttressing influence on the market. Fenwick's, as well as New Amoy Docks, require no special mention. Shanghai Docks have not been favoured lately, and judging from the fact that only the usual interim dividend of \$1.25 per share has been announced, are not likely to recover, unless they are enabled to sell part of their following property. Hongkong and Canton Docks have suffered from falling off of trade, and the Company being obliged to employ part of their staff, to effect economies. We hear, however, that the November and December workings have been more satisfactory. Rates have fluctuated; against the quotation of \$55 at the beginning of the year, the present quotation is, only \$45. No interim dividend has been paid, and it is rumored that no dividend at all will be available for the year.

"Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Hongkong Lands, from causes enumerated in our last review, have kept very quiet, although it is said that the Government is more lenient with satisfactory measures. The rate, which ruled \$95 in the beginning of the year, is now \$24 1/2 sellers. A rapid recovery, making the course of exchange, movements, and up to \$35 has been seen, at present there are sellers at \$33. West Points have not changed much and are \$45 sellers. Hongkong Hotels have dropped from \$104 to \$80; closing, however, with buyers at \$84. The fact of the old building having to be pulled down, resulting in smaller earnings until the new, fine mansion is erected tells against the stock, besides the fact that the new adventures are on a larger scale than before. However, people expect good things of the future. Hongkong's are quoted \$53 the fact, however, that nearly all the Company's money is invested in Kowloon argues well for the future, as Kowloon has undoubtedly an advantage over Hongkong property as soon as the Kowloon-Canton Railway is completed.

Cotton Mills.—In Shanghai Mills, an upward movement has set in, but as these shares are purely Shanghai stock, they might as well be left without special notice. Hongkong Cottons have suffered from the disorganization of trade, and rule quiet.

Sundry Manufacturing Companies.—China Light and Power had much trouble to contend with in Canton, and it is rather difficult to form an exact idea of their value; the present quotation is \$54. Hongkong Electric ruled firm to \$100, and after a slight recovery, made the course of exchange, in the closing month of the year, Dec. 17, 1899, it ruled at \$100, and up to \$100. Alternating between 100 and 100 up to the

free "cannibal" shares. This little Company has a good future, barring accidents from fire and other cattle diseases; present quotation \$14 per share. Cements have ruled steadily; the number of shares is rather large, and lots of people have thought fit to dispose of their surplus holdings; we know, however, that the working of the Company continues good, and that a reasonable dividend will be declared; at the close, sellers at \$9.90 rule the market. Icas have suffered from rumours of opposition, both here and in Macao; the closing rate is \$320 sellers. Ropes have done well as usual, but there are sellers at \$24.

Miscellaneous.—Of Companies under this head, we have but little to say. The China Borneo Company seems to be making good headway, although shares are still quoted \$11. China Provident have been in good demand and up to \$10 has been paid just now; the usual dividend of 80 cents per share is expected. Watsons keep steady, but no speculative movement is noticeable; at the close, there are buyers at \$5 1/2. Langkai, which, although a Shanghai Company, is quoted here, had a tremendous rise from \$1.35 to \$1.80; the Company has been doing well and has further strengthened its position by the finding of oil in their new concession in Aceh.

THE SILVER MARKET.

The dominating influence in the silver market during 1900 has been the heavy speculation in London. The bulls' hegemony long and strenuous, between the "bulls" and "bears" each group having had its successive score. Fortunately for the "bulls" India has come to the rescue as the counteracting influence, while China has also assisted as a large absorbing medium for silver both in bars and coins. The crops in India have been normal and the Hyderabad floods did not produce any material effect on the silver market. When the last mail left London, on 20th ult., the weak tone in the position of silver was accounted for by the heavy loss of the Mt. Ragout & Co. as the inevitable result of a glut of silver in all the great silver dealing centres, and the price was expected sooner or later to go to a point which would cause some of this surplus to be absorbed. In existing circumstances the maintenance of the China exchange above silver parity would appear to be a difficult problem. The position in Bombay is slow to improve; 1,000 bars held on the 18th ult. were only reduced by 500 bars on the 25th ult., in spite of the fact that the best O. & S. steamer landed more than 150 bars in that period. Spot silver continued to be at a discount in Bombay; and in London the forward market was the better of the two.

In the Hongkong market Exchange on London, on the 1st January, stood at 1s. 10d. (parity at 1s. 9d.) with silver at 25 1/2. It went up rapidly until 1.15 was reached on the 9th. A drop of three-eighths was registered in a single day (10th Jan.), and again a further on the 11th, bringing the rate down to 1.10 1/2, and was recorded on the 17th, at which figure it stood up to the 28th. Although the silver market was very brisk, the discount for private paper in London steadily decreased from five per cent on the 1st to 3 1/2 per cent on the 31st. The Bank of England rate declined from six to four per cent. Money, therefore, was becoming easier.

Exchange on Feb. 1, 1.10 1/2; parity 1.0 1/2; B. S. 25 1/2. It went up by eighths till it touched 1.15 on the 14th. From the 15th to the 21st the market tendency was again downwards, until bar silver again reached 25 1/2, with exchange at 1.10 1/2. The depression in trade locally did not influence the London market to any extent, as money, although not very easy, was not very tight. Discount for private paper alternated between 3 1/2 and 3 1/4 per cent. The Bank of England rate stood at four per cent throughout the month.

The opening day in March saw exchange at 1.10 1/2; Bar Silver 25 1/2, parity 1.13 1/2. The material change took place during the month, the month closing with bar silver again at 25 1/2; exchange 1.10 1/2. The discount for private paper further receded from 3 1/2 on the 1st to 2 1/2 on the 31st; Bank of England rate from 4 to 3 1/2.

On the 1st of April exchange was quoted 1.10 1/2; bar silver 25 1/2; parity 1.0 1/2; B. S. 25 1/2. It decreased by one-sixteenth until 1.0 1/2 was registered on the 30th with bar silver parity at 24 1/2. The month closing with bar silver again at 25 1/2; exchange 1.10 1/2. The discount for private paper further receded from 3 1/2 on the 1st to 2 1/2 on the 31st; Bank of England rate from 4 to 3 1/2.

May opened with exchange at 1.0 1/2; bar silver 24 1/2; parity 1.0 1/2. The course tended downward steadily till 1.0 1/2 was reached on the 14th, after which date the rates rose again to 1.0 3/8 on the 31st. Although rates decreased during the first half of the month, money was obtainable in London, private paper being discounted on the 1st at 2 1/2, and on the 31st at 1 1/2 1/2. Bank of England rate from 3 1/2 to 2 1/2.

For June we have the following quotation on the 1st.—Ex. 1.0 1/2, bar silver 24 1/2, parity 1.0 1/2. Ex. 1.0 1/2, bar silver 24 1/2, parity 1.0 1/2. According by sixteenth and then by eighths exchange went up until it reached 1.10 1/2 on the 24th, after which date drops of one-eighth and by farthings brought down the quotation to 1.0 1/2 on the 30th. Bar Silver 24 1/2. Private paper decreased by 1/16ths from 1 1/2 to 1 1/4 on the 30th. Uniform Bank of England rate ruled throughout at 2 1/2 per cent.

July began with bar silver 24 1/2, Ex. 1.0 1/2, parity 1.0 1/2. After a few days' trading, the rate went down by 1/16ths to 1.0 1/2. The month closing with bar silver again at 24 1/2; exchange 1.0 1/2. The discount for private paper was discounted at 1 1/2 on the 1st and 1 1/2 on the 31st. Bank of England rate stood at 2 1/2.

1.0 1/2 was the opening of the exchange rate in August; bar silver 24 1/2; parity 1.0 1/2. It decreased slowly to 1.0 1/2 on the 31st. Private paper, after remaining steady for a fortnight at 1 1/2 per cent, reached 1 1/4 on the 31st. Bank of England rate from 2 1/2 to 2 1/4. The month closing with bar silver again at 24 1/2; exchange 1.0 1/2. The discount for private paper was discounted at 1 1/2 on the 1st and 1 1/2 on the 31st. Bank of England rate stood at 2 1/2.

September was the steadiest month of the year. Ex. 1.0 1/2; bar silver 23 1/2; parity 1.0 1/2. Closing Ex. 1.0 3/8, P. F. 1 1/2 per cent and 1 1/2. Bank of England rate 2 1/2 per cent. Tightness of money was experienced in London in October and was evidenced by a falling off in the rate of exchange, which opened with 1.0 1/2; bar silver 23 1/2; parity 1.0 1/2. Exchange decreased slowly until 1.0 1/2 was registered on the 31st. Private paper rose again from 1 1/2 to 1 1/4. Bank of England rate 2 1/2. For November we have the following quotations.—Ex. 1.0 1/2; bar silver 23 1/2; parity 1.0 1/2. It decreased at first by 1/16ths for three weeks and then by eighths, until 1.0 1/2 was reached on the 30th. Private paper alternated between 2 1/2 and 2 1/4 per cent. Bank of England rate from 2 1/2 to 2 1/4. The month closing with bar silver again at 23 1/2; exchange 1.0 1/2. The discount for private paper was discounted at 1 1/2 on the 1st and 1 1/2 on the 31st. Bank of England rate stood at 2 1/2.

23rd inst. Exchange went up rapidly by 1/16th and 3/16th until 1.0 3/8 on the morning of the 28th inst., and yet higher to 1.0 3/4 at 2.30 p.m. same day. It has remained steady since at 1.0 3/4, which is the closing rate on the last day of the year. Private paper is pretty steady, the close at 1 1/2 with the ruling rate of the Bank of England at 2 1/2 per cent. From the foregoing the vagaries of the white metal remain as great a puzzle as ever.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

On Friday, 25th inst., H. E. the Governor and Lady Lugard entertained H. H. The Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim, attended by Major O'Connor, to dinner at Government House. Mrs. Noble and Miss Waters, who are on their way to Japan, are at present guests at Government House.

Yesterday Lady Lugard and House Party attended Divine Service at St. John's Cathedral.

To-morrow, the 26th inst., His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard are giving a dinner in honour of their Excellencies the Japanese Ambassador and Madame Kato.

The following guests have been invited:—Sir Francis and Lady Piggott, and Miss Oxley, the Hon. Mr. May, C.M.G., and Mrs. May, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Pollock, Admiral of the Fleet Sir James Erskine, K.C.B., Lady and Mrs. Erskine, Commodore, Mrs. and Miss Lyon, Captain Erskine, R.N., Captain Marquis L. Visconti, Captain Baron Meyers-Hohenberg, H.E. Major-General Broadwood, C.B., Colonel Darling, R.E., Lt. Colonel Chamber, C.M.G., and Mrs. Chamber, Captain Heathcote, A.D.C., the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Victoria, and Mrs. Lander, Mr. and Mrs. Fountaine, Comm. and Mrs. Volpicelli, Mr. Wilder and Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.]

CRUELTY TO CHICKENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." DEAR SIR,—We wish to appeal through the local press to all housekeepers in Hongkong, who have their chickens brought alive to their houses from the market or Dairy Farm.

If ladies only realized when they write "one chicken" in their comradre book what suffering will almost certainly befall that wretched bird before it arrives at their house, we feel sure that they would provide a proper basket for its transit.

How often one sees a

